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Report on the Administration of Bengal 1933-34

(with a summary of political and general events for the calendar year 1934)

Superintendent, Government Printing
Bengal Government Press, Alipore, Bengal
1935

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INTRODUCTION.

The Report is as usual divided into two parts. Part I deals with important political and economic events and with the work of the Legislative Council during the calendar year 1934. Part II consists of summary chapters, based upon departmental reports, on the working of the various branches of the Administration during the financial year 1933-34. For physical features of the country, area, climate and chief staples, historical summary, forms of Administration, civil divisions of British territory, character of land tenures and system of settlement and survey reference may be made to the Report on the Administration of Bengal for 1921-22, Part II, Chapter I.

Certain changes have been made in this report, principally in the arrangement of chapters in Part II, designed to make for a more natural division of subjects under different chapter headings.

The Report is published under the authority and with the approval of the Government of Bengal, but this approval does not necessarily extend to every particular expression of opinion.

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Bengal Administration Report, 1933-34.

Part I.

General Summary of Events for the Calendar Year 1934.

Changes in the Administration.

Governor.

1. His Excellency the Right Hon'ble Sir John Anderson, G.C.B., G.C.I.E., who had assumed office in March 1932, continued to be the Governor of Bengal up to the 9th August 1934, on which date he went on leave. The Hon'ble Sir John Ackroyd Woodhead, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S., the Senior Member of the Bengal Executive Council, acted as Governor in his place until the 2nd December 1934, when His Excellency Sir John Anderson on his return from England resumed office.

Executive Council.

2. Death and resignation caused several changes in the personnel of the Executive Council, during the period under review. The Hon'ble Sir Provash Chunder Mitter, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., the Revenue Member, having completed his term of five years on the 30th July 1933, was granted an extension of one year. His sudden death on the 9th February 1934 deprived Government of the services of an able and experienced administrator. The Hon'ble Sir Charu Chandra Ghose, KT., formerly acting Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court, was appointed to be a temporary Member in his place on the 13th February 1934. His health proving unequal to the strain of office, he resigned his appointment on the 6th April, and subsequently passed away on the 10th September 1934. His death removed one who for many years had, by scholarship, capacity, and dignity, proved his fitness for high office under the Crown. In his place in the Executive Council the Hon'ble Sir Brojendra Lal Mitter, K.C.S.I., who had just completed his term as Law Member of His Excellency the Governor General's Executive Council, was appointed, with effect from 5th May 1934, and continues to hold office.

The Hon'ble Alhadj Nawab Bahadur Sir Abdelkerim Ghuznavi, KT., Member in charge of the Irrigation and Forests Departments, continued to be Member until the expiry of his term of office on the 8th May 1934, when he left public life for well-earned retirement. In this vacancy the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin, K.C.I.E., who had been Minister since 1929, was appointed with effect from the 9th May 1934, and continues to hold office.

As mentioned in last year's report, the Hon'ble Sir W. D. R. Prentice, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., I.C.S., Home Member to the Government of Bengal, died suddenly on the 11th December 1933 following an operation for appendicitis and was succeeded by the Hon'ble Mr. R. N. Reid, C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S., who continues to hold office.

The Hon'ble Sir John Ackroyd Woodhead, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S., who had been Finance Member since 1932, continued to hold office up to the 5th April 1934, when he proceeded on leave for four months. The Hon'ble Mr. J. A. L. Swan, C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S., Chairman of the Calcutta Improvement Trust, acted as a temporary Member in the vacancy. On return from leave, the Hon'ble Sir John Woodhead resumed office as Member on the 4th August 1934, and acted as Governor of Bengal from the 10th August to the 2nd December 1934. The Hon'ble Mr. Swan acted in the resultant vacancy as a temporary Member of Council till the 22nd November 1934, when he proceeded on leave for reasons of health. This portfolio was then held by the Hon'ble Mr. R. N. Reid in addition to his own until the 2nd December, when Sir John Woodhead resumed the office of Finance Member.

Ministers.

3. The Hon'ble Nawab Kazi Golam Mohiuddin Faroqui, Khan Bahadur, and the Hon'ble Sir Bijoy Prasad Singh Roy, KT., continued as Ministers during the whole of the period under review, the former in charge of the portfolio of Agriculture and Industries and Public Works, and the latter of Local Self-Government. The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin, K.C.I.E., was Minister in charge of Education up to the 8th May 1934, when he was appointed Member of Council. In his place the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Azizul Haque, M.L.C., was appointed with effect from the 15th June 1934, and continues to hold office.

General.

4. The year 1934 was less eventful in many ways than its predecessors.

The prestige of Government stood higher at its beginning than for many years past. With the virtual disappearance of Congress, owing partly to the firm policy adopted by Government and partly to Mr. Gandhi's own actions, the ceaseless campaign of hate had slackened in intensity, and a timid, half-doubting spirit of co-operation had begun to take its place. It was not easy for those accustomed for many years to offer nothing but destructive criticism of every action taken by Government, to bring their unwilling feet to tread the path of co-operation and constructive work. But an Act of God, terrible in itself, provided the opportunity. On January 15th an earthquake shook all Northern India, wrecked most of Northern Bihar, and caused considerable damage in the Darjeeling district of this province. In face of this cataclysm of nature, man's quarrels sank into insignificance, and both in Bihar and Bengal many of the Congress leaders co-operated generously and without reserve in the work of relief and reconstruction.

5. The Bihar earthquake is now known to have been one of the most violent and most extensive in history. The epicentre was roughly along a line between Motihari and Monghyr in North Bihar, but the whole of Bengal was shaken. Steeples rocked in Calcutta, and buildings cracked and collapsed in Darjeeling. Great alarm was caused locally in many places in Bengal by the length and number of the shocks, which took place very slowly over a period of two to three minutes, but reports soon showed that in this province at least comparatively little damage had been done, and that the main force of the earthquake had been felt elsewhere. It was not for two or three days that the full extent of the disaster which had overtaken North Bihar was realised, as communications were shattered, and it was only by aeroplane reconnaissance that any speedy approach could be made to the stricken area. Once the news was known, a great wave of pity surged through all sections of the community, and a Central Relief Committee was organised in Calcutta which speedily transformed itself into a Mayor's Relief Fund, on which Europeans, Marwaris, Hindus, Muhammadans, representatives of every community and all shades of political opinion co-operated heartily. This was due largely to the broad view of his responsibilities taken by the Mayor of Calcutta, Mr. Santosh Kumar Basu, who worked with great zeal and energy to make the Relief Fund an unqualified success. As a result of the appeal issued in his name, a sum of several lakhs was raised and despatched, and parties of doctors and salvage workers, with self-contained equipment, were sent to the affected areas.

Congress.

6. An account was given in last year's report of the suspension of the mass civil disobedience campaign consequent upon Mr. Gandhi's fast in May 1933, and of the resultant conference of Congress workers at Poona in July which dissolved all local Congress organisations, and granted permission to resort to individual civil disobedience to those willing to undertake it. This policy found very little favour in Bengal, and when Mr. Gandhi, after his unconditional release from jail in August 1933, announced his intention of abstaining from civil disobedience up to the following August, and in the meantime devoting himself exclusively to his "Harijan" campaign, the individual civil disobedience campaign lost what little vitality it had possessed.

7. At the beginning of 1934 it was clear that civil disobedience was not only dead but discredited, and in the absence of any alternative programme to place before the country, Congress remained, in the words of one observer, in the state of catalepsy into which it had been thrown by its leader. Government on the one hand made it clear that so long as Congress was committed to civil disobedience, it would be treated as an unlawful body; on the other hand Mr. Gandhi in spite of the pressure put upon him by his own followers, was strongly opposed to any change of programme. This attitude led to the formation of autonomous parties in Madras and Bombay within the Congress, and in Bombay a movement of revolt against the leadership of Mr. Gandhi was instituted. This effort aroused little interest in Bengal, where the leaders were pre-occupied with their own local problems.

8. At the beginning of the year Mr. Gandhi was touring Madras in the course of his campaign against untouchability, and his work for the uplift of the "Harijans," as he termed the depressed and backward classes of Hindu Society. Originally timed to reach Bengal in February, his progress through Madras was slow, and he did not appear to be in any hurry to reach Bengal with its uncomfortable twin problems of terrorism and faction among the rival Congress groups. There were signs that he would meet with considerable opposition from orthodox Hindus in Bengal; the Secretary of the Varnasram Swarajya Sangha of Calcutta sent a telegram to him "Your presence will disturb peace and amity. Please do not come." Some effort was also made to form a united body of opposition to Mr. Gandhi composed of Sanatanists and members of the extremist "Anti-Gandhi league," but nothing much came of these efforts, as the Marwari financiers

Correction slip to the Report on the Administration of Bengal, 1933-34.

Delete the sentence "This agitation was to be carried on..... .....with the money collected for 'Harijan' work" in paragraph 9, page V, Part I of the Report.

(Gratis.)

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of the Sanatanist organisation withdrew their support. The newspapers, which had boomed his tour extensively, devoted notably less space to his activities as January wore on, and as an item of news he was very much eclipsed by the earthquake.

9. During the third week of January Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru paid a short visit to Calcutta and after consultations with the leaders of most of the subversive movements in Bengal, prescribed a militant programme based mainly on his own extreme socialist views and designed primarily to attract the peasant masses. This agitation was to be carried on under the guise of anti-untouchability activities and with the money collected for "Harijan" work. He was eventually prosecuted before the Chief Presidency Magistrate in respect of three violent and provocative speeches delivered during this visit. The Pandit did not defend himself, beyond attempting to deliver a further seditious speech from the dock, and was sentenced to two years' simple imprisonment on the 16th February. His arrest and conviction aroused little excitement. In Calcutta a partial hartal was observed by Hindu shopkeepers, though vehicular traffic was not interrupted. Elsewhere in Bengal there was no demonstration. This indifference can be attributed partly to the alarm felt about his expropriatory views by the average propertied Congressman, and partly to the general dissatisfaction with the lack of initiative shown by the leaders of the Congress.

10. Independence Day celebrations on January 26th were a dismal failure in most parts of India. Bengal proved no exception to this rule and no demonstration of any note was reported.

11. Meanwhile Mr. Gandhi had pursued his "Harijan" campaign, though pressure had been put upon him to deflect his energies into other channels. From various quarters the suggestion was made that the "Harijan" fund, by this time assuming respectable proportions, should be diverted to earthquake relief. An attempt was made to get him to visit Midnapore in connection with the agitation about "atrocities" there. He was asked to sanction mass disobedience in that district in retaliation for the alleged "oppressions," and to provide the money necessary to initiate it. Mr. Gandhi flatly refused to put up any money and declined to interest himself in the movement. In fact it is clear that he was most unwilling to come to Bengal at all, in spite of the programmes drawn up from time to time, only to be postponed as his tour in other provinces lengthened out. Early in March he left South India and went to inspect the earthquake stricken area of Bihar. There he met with Dr. B. C. Roy and Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya, and being pressed by them agreed

to the holding of a conference at Delhi to discuss the question of abandonment of civil disobedience. The Conference, which eventually took place on the 31st March and 1st April decided to revive the All-India Swaraj Party, to formulate a constructive programme, and in particular to contest the Assembly elections with a view to securing the repeal of all "repressive" legislation, and rejection of the White Paper proposals. A committee of three, Dr. Ansari, Dr. Roy and Mr. Desai, was appointed to interview Mr. Gandhi and attempt to gain his approval to these decisions. They journeyed to Patna and met Mr. Gandhi there on the 4th April, and on the following day he published a statement approving of the revised Swarajya Party, with the reservation that his own personal views on the utility of the legislatures had not changed but remained on the whole what they had been in 1930. This met with a mixed reception throughout the country, but on the whole it was agreed that the course of action proposed was worth following if the only alternative was for Congress to remain in a state of complete paralysis.

12. Two days later, on April 7th, Mr. Gandhi sprang one of his characteristic surprises on the country. In a long statement, which he was at pains to point out later was not at all influenced by the decision taken at the Delhi Conference, and had been drafted before it, he withdrew civil disobedience into himself, and advised all Congressmen to suspend civil resistance for Swaraj, as distinct from specific grievances, to leave it to him alone, and to engage themselves in various constructive activities. "I was blind" said Mr. Gandhi, and went on to say "Blindness in a leader is unpardonable." This belated recognition of the failure of the Civil Disobedience movement may be said to begin a new stage in the political history of the Congress marking its return, however reluctantly, to the methods of constitutional agitation. The prevailing frame of mind is well expressed in an article of *Forward* of the 11th April. "The present political depression," it said, "is bound to be over sooner or later; and in tiding it over the Swarajist programme may help a great deal." There was a good deal of misgiving among orthodox Congressmen and some opposition in particular from the leaders of the socialist group within the Congress, while those who had been to jail could not but feel that the statement was an implied condemnation of their activities.

13. It is not easy to discern what moved Mr. Gandhi to this sudden decision, but it is probable that one of the motives was the phenomenal growth of the socialist group within the Congress. The impetus to the formation of this group can be

dated back to the Nehru-Gandhi correspondence which was published after Nehru's release from jail in September 1933, and to Subhas Bose's writings. Two attempts to form a party and summon a conference in Bombay were unsuccessful, but Nehru's visit to Calcutta in January 1934 gave fresh encouragement to the movement. A draft programme was drawn up, which was a rehash of European socialist ideas and was particularly bitter against British Imperialism. In Bengal the impetus was sufficient to fuse several semi-communist bodies including the Chatradal, a student organisation, into an All-India Trade Union Congress, which differed very slightly in its views from full-blooded communism. In Bombay the infant Congress Socialist group joined hands with the official communists to celebrate the Unemployed Workers' Day on March 4th, but in Calcutta the meetings were held separately from the official communist meeting, and it was only the presence of the police which prevented a clash. In fact it was in other parts of India, notably Madras and the United Provinces, that the Socialist group established itself firmly within the body of the Congress in sufficient strength to capture the organisation.

14. The Congress Socialist group took up an attitude of strong objection to the formation of the Swarajya party, and also to Mr. Gandhi's suspension of civil disobedience and there was in effect a trial of strength between the two parties to dominate the discussions arising out of the Patna decisions.

15. In reply to questions in the Assembly, the Home Member on April 16th made it clear that Government would raise no obstacle to a meeting of the All-India Congress Committee, or of the Congress itself for the purpose of calling off Civil Disobedience. But it was evident that the proposed abandonment of civil disobedience was merely a recognition of facts and not really the consequence of a decision taken by Congress. Though suspending civil disobedience for tactical reasons, Congress was still hostile to Government, and there could be no question of Government undertaking any dramatic release of those still in jail (by this time their total number had fallen to a negligible figure), nor could Government surrender any of its special powers, obtained by legislation, which would have to remain available in case of any local or general revival of subversive activities.

16. Speculation regarding the life of the Assembly was set at rest by the decision of Government issued on May 1st to dissolve the Assembly and hold elections to a fresh Assembly in the autumn, a decision which was generally welcomed by all sections of political opinion.

17. The inaugural meeting of the Swarajya party was held at Ranchi on the 2nd and 3rd May. It was preceded by the formation of a Bengal Swarajya party, and the provisional general council of the all-India party contained more Bengalis than members from the rest of India. It is significant that among the resolutions passed at Ranchi was one to secure the release of all political prisoners detained without trial or conviction, and "to urge the abandonment of the Andamans as a penal settlement." This, coupled with the fact that not a word was said in condemnation of terrorism, is sufficiently revealing in its exposure of congress mentality in relation to Bengal. For the rest the conference set out the policy and programme of the all-India Swarajya Party. A socialist amendment designed to secure the adoption of a full-blooded socialist programme, and to prepare the way for mass action on socialist lines, secured the votes of one-third of the delegates present.

18. The Ranchi Conference was followed closely by a meeting of the All-India Congress Committee at Patna on the 18th and 19th May. The Congress Committee accepted Mr. Gandhi's recommendation suspending civil disobedience by all but himself, agreed to hold a plenary session of the Congress at Bombay in October, and, refusing its sanction to the formation of the Swarajya party, resolved itself to conduct the forthcoming elections to the Assembly by means of a Parliamentary board.

19. The contingent of Bengali delegates to the Ranchi conference, numbering about one-half of the whole, had been successful in passing a resolution for the release of all detenus, but they were not so successful with regard to the other problem agitating their minds, viz., the Communal Award as modified by the Poona Pact, which would, under provincial autonomy, reduce Hindu representation, excluding the depressed classes, in the general constituencies to 50. The conference was nearly wrecked on this point, owing to the demand of the Bengali delegates on the one hand for categorical rejection of the Award and the appeals of Dr. Ansari, and his followers, the Nationalist Muslims, on the other that they would never dare to go to the polls with a programme which included the rejection of the Award without the substitution of some other agreed solution. Eventually the conference shelved the question, a procedure which satisfied neither party, alienated the sympathies of the powerful Hindu Mahasabha and was particularly unpopular in Bengal.

20. On June 6th the Government of India in a communiqué announced that "in view of the fact that civil disobedience has been formally discontinued, and that as a practical policy under

present conditions it may be regarded as having already ceased to exist, the notifications declaring the various constituent parts of the Congress organisation unlawful should be withdrawn." Exception was made in the case of those organisations affiliated to the revolutionary movement of which there were many in Bengal.

21. The first meetings of the Parliamentary Board together with the Congress Working Committee were held in Bombay from the 15th to the 18th June. The Working Committee passed an equivocal resolution declaring that in view of the differences of opinion on the subject it would neither accept nor reject the Communal Award, though it rather ingenuously added in a subsequent resolution that in view of its rejection of the White Paper proposals the Communal Award must automatically lapse. This did not fully satisfy the larger section of the Hindus, who were finding themselves more and more at variance with official Congress policy as time went on. As to their attitude towards the White Paper the Working Committee took refuge in a resolution that the only satisfactory alternative to the White Paper was a constitution drawn up by a constituent assembly elected on the basis of adult suffrage.

22. Another thorny problem also discussed was the question how far the Congress socialist group was to be recognised. Eventually a resolution was passed recognising their existence but condemning their loose talk about the confiscation of private property and the necessity of class war. This coupled with Mr. Gandhi's statement a few days previously welcoming their existence but reprobating their doctrines, caused considerable resentment among the socialists, who issued a statement characterising the Working Committee's resolution as shocking beyond words and calling on all Congressmen with a socialist bent to "accept this challenge and put forward their utmost energy to have this resolution rescinded and their own programme adopted by the Congress Session."

23. Mr. Gandhi in the meantime had been prosecuting his "Harijan" tour in Bihar and Orissa, though not with such success as in the earlier period, and with increasing opposition, especially at Puri, where a hartal was declared and temple doors were kept closed throughout his visit. Here too he narrowly escaped assault by Sanatanist volunteers. He passed through Midnapore on 17th May on his way from Orissa to Patna, and was served at Kharagpur with an order not to halt at any place or make any speech in Midnapore district. This order, which he accepted without demur, was passed in consequence of the peculiar political situation in the district. On the two or three subsequent occasions when he passed

through the district no order was deemed necessary and no demonstration occurred. After a final revision of his programme for Bengal about the middle of May, Mr. Gandhi's sudden decision to continue his tour on foot made any prospect of touring in Bengal before the monsoon very remote. Eventually the whole tour was abandoned and a three-day visit to Calcutta from the 19th to the 21st July was substituted.

24. Prior to his visit to Calcutta a somewhat uneasy alliance had been entered into between the communists who had formed themselves into a "League against Gandhism (sic)" and the Sanatanists, to organise anti-Gandhi demonstrations, but actually the visit passed off without undue incident.

25. The two main objects which Mr. Gandhi had in view in visiting Calcutta were to collect money for his Harijan Fund and to settle the bitter dispute between the rival Congress groups in Bengal. In the first he achieved a considerable measure of success: it is estimated that his collections amounted to about Rs. 75,000, and in addition a certain amount of lip sympathy was given in some quarters to the wants of the depressed classes. In particular the Calcutta Corporation, after being severely taken to task by him for its inadequate provision for its sweeper employees, agreed to spend a certain sum annually on the improvement of their condition. In his second object he failed completely, although he met the Congress workers on three occasions at informal conferences.

26. Mr. Gandhi studiously refrained from any reference to the terrorist movement, except to assure a deputation of students that Congress would work for the release of political prisoners including detenus and state prisoners. For the rest he confined himself to a reiteration of his faith in non-violence as a solution to all the problems with which they were faced.

27. On the whole Mr. Gandhi again proved his strong personal appeal to the public, but he must be held to have failed where the Congress in Bengal most needed him to succeed. This visit to Calcutta marks the end of the "Harijan" campaign of which little has been heard since. On the expiry of his year of abstention from civil disobedience, Mr. Gandhi made no attempt to revive it and although he possibly toyed with the idea of visiting Midnapore, increasing pre-occupation with internal Congress feuds prevented any move in that direction.

28. The meeting of the Congress Working Committee at Benares from July 27th onwards saw the final cleavage with Pandit Malaviya and his followers, after many hours of sterile

and heated debate. Immediately after this meeting they issued a joint statement on the 4th August announcing the formation of a new Nationalist Party to contest the Assembly Elections. There was some uncertainty at first whether membership of this party would be confined to Congressmen or not, but in their statement the organisers said, "We have no difference with the Congress except in the matter of its attitude towards the Communal Award" and later added "there will be no question of the prestige and honour of the Congress being involved in the matter. The Nationalist Party in the Assembly will be a permanent source of strength and support to the Congress Parliamentary Party in the fight for Swaraj. In choosing between the two, therefore, the voters in effect will only have to decide whether they would vote for the programme of the Congress Party plus neutrality towards the Communal Award or for the same programme plus opposition to the Award."

29. In pursuance of this policy a conference was held in Calcutta on the 18th and 19th August to form the new party. It was however attended by certain prominent non-Congressmen such as Dr. Moonje and Bhai Parmanand; Dr. Rabindranath Tagore sent greetings; Sir P. C. Roy was a Vice-President; and Mr. Ramananda Chatterjee, Editor of the "Modern Review," also attended. The party was formed, a constitution drawn up, and appointments made to various executive posts. A resolution was passed confining memberships to Congressmen but in special cases allowing membership to those nationalists who supported the objects of the party, and offering their support to those nationalists as candidates for the legislature who would subscribe to the objects of the party and agree to abide by its rule in the legislature. On the whole the new party did not achieve the success it had hoped for even in Bengal.

30. For some time there had been rumours that Mr. Gandhi had been contemplating retirement from the Congress. The real truth is difficult to ascertain, but there is no doubt that Mr. Gandhi had been considering deeply all the implications of such a step before he again intervened dramatically in the drift of Congress affairs by his statement issued on September 18th. In this he gave a sort of ultimatum to Congress that either they must reform themselves or accept his resignation. He laid down two cardinal reforms, the first being that the phrase "all peaceful and legitimate means" for the attainment of Swaraj, in the statement of aims of the Congress, be replaced by the phrase "all truthful and non-violent means." The second was that the old spinning franchise for membership of the Congress should be re-imposed strictly, instead of a four-anna franchise. In a later statement he added

other reforms, such as the reduction of membership of the Congress Sessions from 6,000 to 1,000, and the formation of an All-India Village Industries Association to undertake the work of village reconstruction, to which Congress had been paying lip service for so many years. In addition he announced his definite decision to retire from the Congress in any case after the Bombay session, in order to devote himself to village reconstruction work.

31. His influence over the rank and file of the Congress was fully demonstrated at the Congress session held in Bombay in the last week of October. There he carried his reforms through almost *in toto*, and repelled vigorous attacks on the one hand from Pandit Malaviya and his following, and on the other hand from the Congress socialist group, which, although it had failed in the election to the local Congress bodies to obtain the sweeping victories it had anticipated, had come up in sufficient numbers seriously to embarrass the Congress executive.

32. The eclipse of Bengal politicians in all-India affairs is nowhere more clearly shown than in the composition of the new Working Committee of the Congress appointed after the Bombay session. Not a single Bengali was included, not even Dr. B. C. Roy, who perhaps more than any other man had been responsible for the initiation of the Council-Entry programme, and Bengal's sole representative was Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, who usually resides in Delhi. There seems little doubt that those responsible for Congress policy were heartily sick of Bengal and its twin troubles of terrorism and party faction. Bengal Congressmen in their turn in November showed their opinion of the policy of the Congress by returning nominees of Pandit Malaviya's party to the Assembly in every general constituency in Bengal. Towards the end of the year the resignation of Dr. B. C. Roy from the Presidentship of the Bengal Congress Committee was an indication of the unworkability of the policy of Congress, and the unattractiveness of the Congress programme for the politically-minded element in Bengal. A new and significant orientation of Congress policy is indicated in the election, just at the close of the year, of Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose to be the President of the new and reformed Provincial Congress Committee.

Calcutta Corporation.

33. Corporation politics again attracted considerable attention during the year under review. On the expiry of the term of office of Mr. Santosh Kumar Basu as Mayor, political manœuvring on an extensive scale began for the choice of a successor. The proceedings of the Corporation on April 10th for the election of a

Mayor for the year 1934-35 disclosed a deep cleavage between the parties of J. C. Gupta (the J. M. Sen Gupta group) and Dr. B. C. Roy (the Subhas Bose group) which supported the candidature of Mr. Fazlul Huq and Mr. N. R. Sarkar, respectively. A feature of the proceedings was a ruling by Mr. B. N. Sasmal the Chairman, elected to conduct the proceedings to choose a Chairman for the election of the Mayor, to the effect that the nominated members had no right to vote on the ground that their term of office had expired on the 31st March. The supporters of Mr. N. R. Sarkar, accompanied by the members of the European group, expressed their dissatisfaction with this ruling by walking out. Mr. Fazlul Huq was then unanimously elected Mayor and Professor S. C. Ghose, Deputy Mayor, with the support of the entire Moslem group and the Councillors belonging to the Sen Gupta group. On the basis of petitions received from certain Councillors of the Corporation to the effect that the proceedings were not in conformity with law, Government addressed the Corporation before deciding whether they should take any action under section 19 of the Calcutta Municipal Act and asked them to submit any representation they had to make. In reply the High Court was moved on behalf of the Sen Gupta group for an injunction to restrain the newly nominated members, i.e., those nominated by Government for the period 12th April 1934 to 31st March 1935, from taking part in meetings of the Corporation. An interim injunction was refused but a rule was issued.

The Corporation held a succession of meetings to consider the question of submitting a representation to Government with regard to the legality or otherwise of the proceedings of the 10th April, but at none of the meetings was any conclusion reached and Government were compelled to inform the Corporation that if no representation was received by the 10th May they would give a decision in the matter without further reference to the Corporation. As no representation was received by that date Government issued orders on the 11th May under section 19 of the Calcutta Municipal Act annulling the proceedings of the meeting of the 10th April in so far as they related to the election of a Mayor and Deputy Mayor as well as all subsequent proceedings of the Corporation, and directed the Chief Exceutive Officer to convene a meeting of the Corporation on or before the 18th May for the purpose of enabling the Councillors appointed by Government to take their oath of allegiance and of electing a Mayor and a Deputy Mayor. In doing so Government made it clear that their decision was based solely on the consideration of a substantial point of law, irrespective of considerations of the claims of communities or parties or of the merits of individuals.

34. The Chief Executive Officer accordingly convened a meeting for the 17th May. The meeting proved to be of an extremely rowdy character. The Sen Gupta-*cum*-Muhammadan group disputed the right of the nominated Councillors to take part in the election of a chairman for the meeting, as well as in the election of a Mayor and Deputy Mayor. After a physical tussle between two chairmen nominated by the two contending parties for the possession of the chair, order was restored for a time by a common agreement whereby Mr. B. K. Basu was allowed to preside, but soon afterwards the meeting broke into two groups, one purporting to be presided over by Dr. K. S. Roy on behalf of the nominated-*cum*-Bose group, and the other by Mr. M. M. Burman on behalf of the Sen Gupta-*cum*-Muhammadan group each of which, amidst general uproar and confusion set about electing their own Mayor and Deputy Mayor, viz., Mr. Fazlul Huq and Professor S. C. Ghose, by the latter group, and Mr. N. R. Sarkar and Mr. B. N. Roy Chowdhury by the former. None of these however, attempted to exercise the functions of Mayor or Deputy Mayor. The deadlock continued, for a time but gradually indications of a more reasonable spirit made themselves felt. Suggestions were made that a special session of the Legislative Council should be called to deal with the situation by means of a suitable amendment of the Calcutta Municipal Act, but these were not accepted by Government. Government then intimated to the Chief Executive Officer that they were prepared to exercise their powers under section 19 of the Act, if a clear assurance was forthcoming from the three main groups in the Corporation that in that event, they would elect either Mr. Santosh Kumar Basu (the late Mayor) or Khan Bahadur Abdul Momen to the chair by general agreement, and transact the necessary business without disorder. The required assurances were forthcoming and eventually at a meeting held on the 4th July Mr. N. R. Sarkar was elected Mayor and Mr. B. N. Roy Choudhury, Deputy Mayor, and thus ended an episode which had brought nothing but discredit upon the Corporation Councillors, for the lack of dignity and acrimonious spirit of party faction displayed throughout by the two rival Congress groups.

Communal Situation.

35. Though there were minor incidents and bickering between the two great communities in Bengal in two instances breaking out into rioting, relations were on the whole satisfactory and nothing occurred during the year that really calls for comment.

Assembly Elections.

36. The elections to the Legislative Assembly took place in November. The six non-Muhammadan seats were captured by members of the Congress Nationalist Party. The subsequent death of Mr. B. N. Sasmal, the member for the Burdwan division, did not alter the complexion of the results, as a Congress Nationalist was returned in his place. The Marwari Association returned a Sanatanist, the Landholders returned the sitting member. In almost all cases the Nationalist candidates defeated Congress Parliamentary Board nominees by overwhelming majorities, showing that the Hindus voted on one issue alone, the Communal Award.

37. Among the Muhammadans, who have six seats in Bengal, four were returned unopposed, three being sitting members. Of the six three were claimed by the "Proja" party, namely, Sir Abdulla Suhrawardy, Sir Abdur Rahim and Mr. A. K. Fazlul Huq. One member Mr. Abdul Yahev Baqui was supported by the Congress organisation, but he published no definite programme.

Krishak Samitis.

Agrarian situation.

38. At the beginning of 1934 the agrarian situation was comparatively quiet, although in Tippera there were indications of consultations between tenants and debtors desiring to find a way of escape from their liabilities. In Faridgunj police-station of Tippera, the formation of a Langal (plough) Samiti attracted some attention, and in Noakhali tenants and landlords were still suspicious of one another. In the rest of the province there was no outward sign of activity.

39. At a conference in Mymensingh district early in March strongly anti-landlord speeches were made, and a suggestion was put forward that Government should take the rent of land direct from the tenants. Meetings were held in April in Rajshahi and Dinajpur districts of tenants to form Samitis to protect their interests, and a so-called Bengal Tenants' Conference was held at Kushtia under the presidency of Mr. Fazlul Huq. The abolition of landowners and the repudiation of interest on loans were among the subjects discussed. The situation gradually improved as the year progressed and the activities of the adherents of the theory of non-payment were met without resort to fresh powers under the law. There was a slight but distinct improvement in economic conditions, rents in private estates came in more freely, and generally any indications of unwillingness to meet rent obligations decreased

markedly. In general the cultivators were building their hopes on the development of the policy of rural reconstruction on which Government has embarked, and for the time being little more was heard of Krishak Samitis.

Legislative Council.

40. The winter session of the Legislative Council opened on the 8th January 1934, the first day being devoted to non-official resolutions. Nothing of striking interest was discussed. On the following days only Government business was transacted. The Bengal Smuggling of Arms Bill, 1934, was introduced and referred to a Select Committee, after a debate which disclosed strong support for the Bill from different quarters of the House. The Bengal Nurses Bill, 1934, the Presidency Small Cause Courts (Bengal Amendment) Bill, 1934, and the Bengal Muhammadan Marriages and Divorces Registration (Amendment) Bill, 1934, were also referred to Select Committees, and some Bills of minor importance were taken into consideration and passed.

The Council re-assembled on the 22nd, 23rd and 24th January, and passed the Bengal Cess (Amendment) Bill, 1934. It met again on the 31st January and took up the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Bill, 1934, which contained important provisions for strengthening the law against terrorism particularly that to make the existing Criminal Law Amendment Act of 1925 and 1930 permanent. There was nothing very noticeable about the debate on the motion to refer the Bill to a Select Committee which was conducted along familiar lines, except that the main bulk of the criticism was directed, first, against the proposal to provide a death penalty for carrying arms in certain circumstances, and, secondly, against the provision to make possession of objectionable literature a penal offence. The Bill was sent to a Select Committee on the 1st February, the motion to circulate the Bill for opinion being defeated by 83 to 21.

The Council met again on the 5th February and passed the Calcutta Port (Amendment) Bill, the Bengal Waterways Bill, the Cattle Trespass (Bengal Amendment) Bill, and the Bengal Smuggling of Arms Bill. The last named was quickly passed in the form settled in Select Committee with a slight amendment proposed on behalf of Government. All the Bills had an easy passage through Council except the Bengal Waterways Bill which provoked lengthy and at times heated discussion. The Presidency Small Cause Courts (Amendment) Bill and the Bengal Nurses Bill, sponsored by Government, and the Bengal Wakf Bill,

which was in charge of a private member, were passed. A motion to refer to a Select Committee the Bengal State Lotteries Bill, 1933 (tabled by a non-official member), was lost on a division by 17 votes to 55. On the 21st February the Bengal budget for 1934-35 was presented and the discussion of its general features was taken up on the 28th. On the 27th the Council passed without a division a non-official resolution to the effect that early steps be taken to give military training to the people of Bengal with the object of raising a permanent unit of the Indian Army from the Province. Government undertook to transmit a report of the debate to the authority concerned.

41. The Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Bill, 1934, as amended by the Select Committee, was presented to the Council on the 12th February. Two hundred and sixty-five amendments were tabled, and consideration of the Bill was taken up on the 5th March. The Bill was passed on the 10th March after six full days of tedious debate, in which all the important provisions of the Bill were keenly contested. The opposition though highly successful in its obstruction tactics came for the most part from individual members acting on their own responsibility. The absence of leadership was marked, but Mr. N. K. Basu deserves mention for the ability and pertinacity with which he fought the Bill to the end under discouraging circumstances. In all divisions there was an overwhelming Government majority. The proceedings were distinguished by a sitting of the Council up to midnight on the 10th March.

42. Thereafter the discussion on the budget for 1934-35 was taken up, and terminated on the 24th March. No serious attempt was made to reduce any demand *in toto*, and much of the time of the Council was absorbed in the discussion of "hardy annuals." In the few divisions that were called Government majorities were substantial.

43. After conclusion of the budget business the Council took up the Bengal Cess Amendment Bill, 1934, which had been returned by His Excellency the Governor for reconsideration. The Bill, as amended in accordance with the Governor's recommendation, was carried without opposition and the Council was then prorogued.

44. The Council met again on December 10th and sat till the Christmas holidays. Four Government Bills were passed into law, two were referred to Select Committees and one circulated for opinion. No serious opposition was encountered in regard to any of them. Of private members' Bills, five were introduced, two referred to Select Committees, and one circulated for opinion,

the remaining eight on the agenda making no progress owing, in the majority of cases, to the absence of the mover. None of these Bills is of much importance. Two special motions were carried without division. The one approved the action of Government in guaranteeing the interest on debentures up to Rs. 12½ lakhs to be raised by the Bank financing Land Mortgage Banks. The other approved Government's proposal to advance the cost of a Special Officer and staff to make a survey of Wakf property, the advance to be recovered from the Wakf Fund when constituted under the Bengal Wakf Act, 1934. A resolution was carried without division, having been accepted in principle by the Member in charge of the department, though he reserved liberty in regard to its precise terms, recommending the appointment of an Advisory Board under section 35 of the Indian Electricity Act, 1910. A motion for adjournment to discuss the seriousness of the situation arising out of the Dock Workers' strike was lost on division by 55 to 23 votes. A debate also took place on the proposals of the Joint Select Committee, in the course of which every point of view except that of the extremist Hindu section was adequately represented. The general trend of criticism from non-officials was on the lines of the press criticisms but moderate in tone. General disappointment was expressed at the lack of mention of Dominion Status, while caste Hindus were unanimously and strongly opposed to the Communal Award and the Poona Pact. On the question of negotiations to arrive at an agreed revision of the distribution of seats in Bengal, the leader of the European group and the Hon'ble Sir Bijoy Prasad Singh Roy (the latter in his personal capacity) both made offers of their services if required in negotiating, but a Scheduled Caste leader while indicating the readiness of the Scheduled Castes to negotiate made it clear that any alterations in the Pact would be acceptable only on their own conditions. The Communal Award was strongly defended by all Muslim speakers, who were practically unanimous in expressing their readiness to work the proposed Reforms, though they, and also the Scheduled Caste leaders, criticised the proposed Second Chamber.

45. The financial recommendations were regarded as less favourable than the White Paper proposals, and the statement in the Report that early distribution of any substantial part of the taxes on income was improbable, was viewed with great concern by all. The Committee's opinion that the centre is unlikely, for some time to come, to be able apart from the needs of deficit provinces to spare anything by way of fresh resources for the provinces, was interpreted as pointing to the conclusion that the jute producing provinces are not likely to obtain more than a

half share of the revenue from the export duty on jute on the inauguration of the Reforms. This also caused anxiety. The opinion was very strongly expressed that Bengal should start the Reforms with a clean slate unencumbered by the present heavy load of unproductive debt.

Government propaganda and publicity, 1934.

46. The measures inaugurated by Government with the object of countering the misrepresentations of a hostile press and of educating the public as regards political and economic issues were continued during the year. As in the previous year 12 peripatetic cinema parties each with a 35 m.m. silent outfit toured throughout Bengal during the year, and almost everywhere there were arrangements for explaining the films to the audience by officials and non-officials. On a modest estimate about four and a half lakhs of people including women attended these shows every month. Cinema propaganda has been pronounced by local officers to be the most effective means of carrying home to the people lessons in personal hygiene; placing before the agriculturist modern methods of agriculture; disseminating information on cattle diseases and their prevention and similar subjects. There was a persistent demand for the parties from almost all districts.

Publicity Van.

47. During the cold weather of 1934-35 a Publicity Van fitted up with charts and models of the Agriculture, Industry, Veterinary and Public Health Departments and equipped with a radio receiving set, a cinema machine, a microphone and a gramophone was sent out to tour the districts of the Burdwan Division. The van was accompanied by a trained lecturer who explained the charts, etc., to the audience. Local exhibitions were arranged at the places visited by the van, where cattle shows, were arranged and additional items of amusement were provided in the form of races and physical feats. More than a lakh of people attended the exhibitions and according to the reports of the local officers the experiment was a great success.

Radio.

48. By arrangement with the Indian State Broadcasting Station, Calcutta, two half hours were devoted every week to broadcast talks on subjects political, economic and educational. As soon as the talks were given arrangements were made to have them published in the newspapers so that they might reach a larger public. The question of expanding this method of propaganda to rural areas has further been examined. An experiment is now being made in the district of Jessore with a number of specially designed receiving sets, supported by a special programme from

the Broadcasting Station, Calcutta. This will aim at giving villagers instructive information on agriculture and public health, and village reconstruction generally.

Press Notes.

49. A new departure in publicity activities made towards the end of the year was the issue of press notes. These notes were issued from time to time detailing the activities of Government in their various departments and have attracted a good deal of attention.

Pamphlets.

50. As in the preceding years the publication and distribution of literature in English and Bengali dealing with political, economic, educational, agricultural, industrial, constitutional, public health and other questions of the day continued to be one of the main activities of the Publicity Department. During the year 290,650 copies of pamphlets dealing with 26 different subjects were distributed gratis. The noticeable feature of the year was an increasing demand for these publications from non-officials.

Control of the Press.

51. During the year under review 89 warnings were administered to newspapers. Demands for security were made in the case of four presses and five newspapers, while in one case the security of a press and in another that of a newspaper was forfeited. There was a noticeable improvement in the tone of the press during the year under review. Foreign affairs, notably in Germany, occupied more space than in previous years, and general articles on world politics and economics were frequent. The earthquake filled the columns of the newspapers to the exclusion of all else for several weeks after its occurrence. Towards the end of the year there were denunciations of the report of the Joint Parliamentary Committee, but the reforms had been under discussion for seven years, the subject matter was stale, and the condemnation somewhat perfunctory.

Terrorism.

52. Although the action taken during the previous year under the powers possessed by the executive had enabled the authorities to a large extent to prevent outrages and to keep the outward manifestations of terrorist activity under control, recruitment was still going on in full vigour, chiefly through the circulation of terrorist literature to impressionable youths either privately or through libraries, and clubs, designed ostensibly to promote mental and physical culture. It was obvious that Government had not yet succeeded in inducing parents to exercise adequate

control over their children. There was reason also for thinking that some of the older revolutionaries were biding their time and hoping that, when the special legislation then in force lapsed, opportunity would occur for a renewal of their activities. Finally, numerous absconders were at large, being both a fruitful source of corruption to the youth of the country and a means by which terrorist organisations were kept alive.

53. The murder of Mr. Burge at Midnapore in September 1933 led Government once more to review their powers and to consider what measures were needed for more effectively grappling with the terrorist problem. While more drastic measures were necessary to deal with hardened revolutionaries, it was clear that the problems of recruitment and of the immature terrorist required treatment along somewhat different lines. Accordingly a Bill was introduced into the Legislative Council (and passed on 16th March) designed to attack the problem from these two angles.

It included provisions aiming at the prevention of recruitment of young persons to the movement, and at enlisting the assistance of parents and guardians in saving them from contamination by terrorist groups. The law as it stood regarding the detention of suspects was such that action could not be taken until a young person had been so corrupted that the lesser forms of restraint proved of no avail. Powers were therefore taken to deal with such persons at an earlier stage and by methods less severe than actual detention in camp or jail. A Magistrate of a district was empowered to pass restrictive orders on any youth up to the age of 21, after consulting his parent or guardian, and to vary these orders in each individual case as he thought fit, so that by giving a youthful terrorist time for reflection and cutting him off from his bad associations, he might discard terrorist ideas and endeavour to lead a normal life.

To deal with the hardened terrorist the penalties for evading arrest were strengthened and the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment and Bengal Suppression of Terrorist Outrages Acts made permanent. It was hoped thereby to strike a blow at their morale by leaving no doubt as to Government's determination to wage a relentless war against terrorism.

54. To turn to the other side of the picture, the "outrages" for the year 1934, that is, the commission or attempted commission of various crimes, such as murder, dacoity and robbery, number fifteen. They include the cricket-ground outrage at Chittagong on 7th January, and the attack on His Excellency the Governor at Lebong on 8th May; the hacking to death of Netra Sen at

Gairala, district Chittagong, on the 8th January, the shooting of a Muhammadan, and wounding of another, at Deobhog, district Dacca, on the 10th April, and the stabbing of a member of one terrorist party by a member of another at Kasba, district Tippera, on the 24th February; seven dacoities, one at Bathua in Chittagong district on 23rd February, four in Dinajpur district, one at Nalchiti in Bakarganj district on 15th May, and one at Gangail in Mymensingh district on 13th October; while an attempted dacoity was frustrated and arms captured at Kuliarchar, district Mymensingh, on the 20th February. There was a robbery at Labpur, district Birbhum, on the 22nd April, and a bomb outrage at Shibpur thana, district Howrah, on 6th May. The above catalogue does not include cases of illegal possession of arms, nor does it take account of offences committed by detenus or convictions for breaking rules under the Bengal Suppression of Terrorist Outrages Act.

55. The two main terrorist occurrences of the year 1934 were the attempt to massacre Europeans on the cricket-ground at Chittagong on the 7th January, and the attempt to assassinate His Excellency the Governor of Bengal at Lebong Race Course on 8th May. The Chittagong outrage was an attempt to stage a spectacular occurrence on the lines of the Armoury Raid and Pahartali Institute outrages. The execution of Surja Sen and Tarakeswar Dastidar, two leaders of the Armoury Raid, who after absconding for three years, had been captured, tried and condemned to death by a Special Tribunal in the previous August, had been postponed pending the disposal of the Privy Council appeal, and reliable information had been received that a desperate attempt would be made to commit some outrages as a reprisal.

56. The atmosphere in Chittagong was tense. On the 24th December, 1933, two youths were arrested in the act of sticking up red leaflets on walls in the town. These threatened indiscriminate massacre regardless of age or sex. The only other occasions on which red leaflets had been posted up in Chittagong were on the night of the Armoury Raid and the night of the Pahartali Institute attack. The new leaflet announced that the Republican Army, Chittagong Branch, "launch to-day" their offensive on Europeans. Fortunately, the early discovery of the leaflets enabled prompt precautions to be taken, and action by the terrorists was postponed till the 7th of January 1934 at 5-15 p.m., when four young Hindu *bhadraloks* (disguised as coolies) armed with bombs and a revolver attempted to murder the European spectators and players at a cricket match on the club ground. The match had just concluded and players and spectators were assembled on the small hillock, which is bounded by three roads,

overlooking the cricket ground. There were some fifty European men and women present, and several children. The Superintendent of Police, who had just left the place and was passing in his car by the road at the back of the hillock, saw two youths loitering there, stopped his car and ordered his pistol-orderly to search them. He then got out of the car with his driver, also armed, to examine the youths further. One of the youths immediately threw a bomb at him and the second bolted, pursued by the pistol-orderly. The bomb exploded with a detonation clearly heard half a mile away, but failed to do any damage. The armed driver fired at and killed the bomb thrower. Unfortunately in doing so one bullet passed through the hand of the Superintendent of Police, who had grappled with the man. The pistol-orderly in pursuit of the escaping youth, who refused to halt when called upon to do so, fired at a range of about thirty yards and brought him down. He died the same evening. While this was going on, two other assailants had made their way on to the slope of the hillock. They ran towards the assembled Europeans, threw six bombs, none of which exploded, and one of them running into the middle of the crowd fired six rounds from a revolver with, miraculously, no results. Both youths were seized and overpowered. Of the four, one had been absconding since the distribution of red leaflets on the 24th December, another was an Armoury Raid absconder who had been hiding outside the district, and a third had been absconding for about five months.

57. On the same night of January 7th, at a village named Gairala some miles from Chittagong town, a Hindu *bhadralok* named Netra Sen was hacked to pieces by unknown men. The motive for this crime was that the man was suspected by the terrorists of being an informer. Leaflets were posted up in all the neighbouring villages warning the public that if they gave any assistance in the investigation of the case of murder of Netra Sen, they would also be murdered. The distribution of threatening red leaflets continued through the post, addressed to officials and non-officials who were helping Government in any way. They were posted from Chittagong to Comilla and Midnapore and were posted up in Noakhali and in Murshidabad. It is worthy of note that the words "Up Revolution" were on the following day (8th January) found scribbled on the wall of the detenu ward in the Chittagong Jail), and at the time of the execution of Surja Sen and Tarakeswar Dastidar on the 12th January, the detenus kept up a continuous chorus of revolutionary cries.

58. Similarly, in the days preceding the date of the Lebong Outrage, there were signs of increased activity among the terrorist groups. On the 26th March, some 12-bore cartridges not covered

by licence were found at the search of a house in police-station Serajdikhan, district Dacca. In the same police-station on the 5th April, in the jungle near the house of a detenu a box containing 20 revolver cartridges was found. In the early hours of April 10th, some Muhammadans challenged three suspicious-looking Hindu youths in village Deobhog near Narayanganj, district Dacca, and, being dissatisfied with their answers, attempted to hold them up. The suspects opened fire with one or perhaps two revolvers, and one Muhammadan was shot dead and another seriously wounded. One of the Hindus was arrested on the spot, and subsequently sentenced to death by a Special Tribunal. On the day following this outrage, the Dacca Police searched the houses of 12 members of a terrorist group in Dacca and found an eight-chambered automatic and five cartridges in the house of one Haripada Dey. The details of the Lebong conspiracy are public property. The attempt was made at Lebong Race Course on the 8th May. Just after the Governor's Cup race, while attention was centred on the return of the horses to the unsaddling enclosure, two youths approached His Excellency's box, one on the right side and the other in front. The former opened fire with a revolver and had rested his hands on the balustrade of the box to continue firing when he was seized by Mr. Bhupendra Narayan Singh, zemindar of Barwari in Bihar. Almost simultaneously, the assailant was hit by shots fired by the Superintendent of Police and the Governor's personal guard: he was then quickly overpowered and disarmed. It was discovered that the second cartridge in his weapon had fortunately misfired. The second assailant approached from the front and, running up the steps of His Excellency's box, opened fire at almost point-blank range with an automatic pistol. He had fired one shot and was still aiming at His Excellency when he was tackled from his right front and brought down by Mr. Tandy Green, Superintending Engineer of the Public Works Department. Others gave prompt assistance and the man was at once disarmed and placed under arrest. One of the shots hit a lady spectator on the public stand behind His Excellency's box, but only slight injury was caused to her foot. His Excellency's providential escape from injury was received with every sign of rejoicing and thankfulness throughout the province. The press condemned a senseless outrage in unqualified terms and took the opportunity to remind the public of the Governor's signal services in promoting the interests of the province. The Calcutta Corporation adopted a resolution recording "their deep sense of horror at, and their unqualified condemnation of, the dastardly attempt on the life of His Excellency the Governor of Bengal," and tendering "their sincere congratulations to His Excellency on his miraculous and providential escape." A skilfully conducted

police investigation laid bare a widespread and carefully planned plot concocted mainly in Dacca, whence the two would-be murderers hailed, and culminated in the conviction of 6 persons including a female, three of whom were condemned to death.

59. Two days before the occurrence at Lebong, an attempt was made by two youths to blow up the Sibpur police-station in Howrah district at about 2 a.m. on the 6th May. Four bombs were hurled wildly, and a sentry on duty was slightly injured by flying splinters. A fifth bomb was accidentally dropped and both culprits were injured. They took to their heels but were fortunately intercepted and arrested by beat constables in the vicinity. One of the youths explained that they thought it time that "something was done in Howrah." Investigation and search led to the discovery of a small stock of bombs in Howrah. The outrage, it subsequently turned out, was the work of the terrorist organisation known as the Hindusthan Socialist Republican Army.

60. Early in February preparations were made to break up a revolutionary organisation north of the river Karnaphuli in Chittagong district in the locality of village Fateabad. On the night of the 23rd February a combined cordon of police and troops over a distance of about nine miles was formed. About 7 a.m. a party of the Eastern Frontier Rifles challenged and arrested seven persons who were trying to bury two haversacks in a field. Near by two other bundles were found. The haversacks and bundles contained among other things, a considerable quantity of gold and silver ornaments, three revolvers, and ammunition. Seven other persons were subsequently arrested; one of these was a détenu who had absconded from home domicile, and another was wanted under the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Act. One was found to be wounded in three places and another suffering from injuries in the thigh. The presence of the property, and the fact that two of the revolvers bore signs of having been recently fired, pointed to a recent dacoity, and next day information was lodged at Hathazari police-station that one had been committed during the night at Bathua. Bathua is not far from Fateabad, and it appeared that about 2 a.m. 15 or 16 dacoits had raided a house, assaulted the inmates, and looted cash and ornaments reported to be worth Rs. 3,000. In the scuffle one of the dacoits had been wounded and had left a trail of blood behind him in withdrawing. Later all fourteen accused were convicted by a Special Tribunal of dacoity and offences under the Arms Act and sentenced to long terms of imprisonment. This fortunate capture dealt a severe blow to the terrorist in that particular region.

61. In other parts of the province outside Chittagong the year opened quietly. In January during the investigation of a local conspiracy case in Birbhum district, a 6-chambered revolver with eight live cartridges was recovered from a tank which was drained for the purpose. In February, two prominent terrorists were arrested in Calcutta, and a 5-chambered revolver and four rounds of ammunition were recovered from a deserted rice mill in Birbhum. A bomb was recovered from a shop in Jalakati, district Bakarganj, and a revolver from the house of a pleader in Rangpur. A gun was reported stolen in Dinajpur, and a dacoity took place in Tippera in which two guns were stolen, probably by terrorists.

62. In March there was some activity in the Rangpur district, where, following the judgments in the Naldanga, Kurigram and Hili dacoity cases, leaflets preaching revenge were posted on walls, lamp-posts and trees. As a result of the searches that followed, terrorist literature and correspondence were seized. On the night of the 17th, two guns were recovered from some youths who unfortunately escaped without being recognised.

63. On the 19th March one revolver and two automatic pistols were found in the house of a woman at Alambazar, Baranagar police-station, district 24-Parganas. On the 21st, a revolver with four rounds of ammunition and an automatic pistol were found in a soap box buried in the garden attached to a house in Baranagar. At Bally, about six miles north of Howrah, in the house of a local zemindar, the notorious absconder Bipin Bihari Ganguli, a former Councillor of the Calcutta Corporation, who had been avoiding arrest since 1931, was arrested at the beginning of April. His arrest was probably a severe blow to the terrorist movement in Central Bengal.

64. On the 17th March in Barisal the house and compound of a professor in the local college were searched, and 24 serrated brass bomb-shells, 2 daggers, 21 cartridges, and a quantity of revolutionary literature were recovered.

65. On the 16th April the Mymensingh Railway Police found a 5-chambered revolver in a suitcase which formed part of the luggage of two Muhammadans caught travelling without tickets. In Sarisabari police-station of the same district six cartridges were recovered from a dispensary. A single-barrelled gun was stolen in Malda and recovered some months later underground in a temple compound. On the 28th April a youth from Tamluk, district Midnapore, was arrested in Sandel Street, Calcutta, with a 5-chambered nickel-plated ·380 bore revolver and 14 cartridges in his possession.

66. In May a gun was stolen in Rajshahi district, but recovered within a short time and three arrests were made. On the 24th May one Santi Ranjan Mukherjea was arrested in Barisal district with a 7·63 millimetre Mauser automatic pistol, slightly out of order. On the 17th May, two live bombs and ten hand-made revolver cartridges were recovered from a doctor's house in the interior of Tangail subdivision, Mymensingh.

67. During June a revolver was stolen from the trunk of a sub-inspector of police in Dinajpur. In Dacca, Anil Kumar Ghosh, who had been absconding since Mr. Lowman's murder in 1930 and for whose capture a reward of Rs. 500 had been offered, was arrested in a house near the railway station on the 2nd June. The number of threatening letters showed an increase, among the recipients being the District Magistrate and the District Judge of Noakhali, and the Subdivisional Officer and a District Intelligence Branch Sub-Inspector at Asansol. Captures to the police credit in this month include Sukumar Ghosh, one of the principal accused in the Lebong Outrage case, and an absconder in the Hili Railway Station dacoity of 1933.

68. On the 13th July a dacoity was committed at Balla, police-station Balurghat, Dinajpur, by some *bhadralok* youths who were armed with a gun and an axe. The subsequent investigation revealed that two previous dacoities of the same district, one at Kakna on the 17th February, and one at Porsha on the 21st March, were also committed by terrorists and a large number of local youths were arrested and a Special Tribunal constituted to try them.

69. Further finds of weapons took place. At Asansol some youths bathing in the "loco" tank found a ·450 Webley revolver, the ownership of which was untraced. On the 24th July one Chandra Bhusan Sarkar was arrested on the public road in Rangpur with four live cartridges in his possession. In Calcutta on the 27th, as the result of excellent detective work, the house of one Khagendra Nath Basu Mallick, a student of the Presidency College, was searched and two revolvers and 58 live cartridges (some of them bearing traces of misfire), were found. On the 1st August a revolver was found in a tank at Kharagpur (Midnapore).

70. Four men under trial in the Alipore Inter-provincial Conspiracy case, which had been pending from the previous year, got away on the 31st July during a very heavy rain-storm from the Alipore Central Jail. One of the four, Haripada De, was recaptured in Ballygunge railway station the same day but the other three got clear away. Of these one, Sitanath De, had been absconding for two years before his arrest at Benares in November

1933 and is still at large. Purnananda was captured just after the close of the year at Titagarh near Barrackpore, along with two other absconders, one of whom was a girl who had been missing from her home in Tippera for several months. They were armed and a large stock of chemicals and instructions for making them into explosives were recovered along with them.

71. August was almost entirely free from any serious incident. In the Rajshahi Division, as a result of house searches by the police, eight revolver cartridges and some proscribed literature were seized in Bogra, and revolutionary literature in Rangpur and Naogaon (district Rajshahi). Some bombs were recovered in the course of a house search in Howrah. A raid at Puthia, Rajshahi district, resulted in the arrest in a lonely hut of two absconders. In Sherpur in Mymensingh a gun which had been stolen in 1930 was recovered from a culvert on the 20th August. On the night of the 9th August at Astagram in the same district an ambush was laid for dacoits and two were captured with ammunition.

72. In September the Rangpur police were conspicuously successful in recovering arms. From various places in the town between the 16th and 23rd September no fewer than 3 revolvers, 2 automatic pistols, 120 live revolver cartridges and a number of daggers and *kukris* were recovered. In October a general raid carried out by the police throughout the district of Rajshahi resulted in the recovery of implements for the manufacture of arms. In general in the Rajshahi Division evidence of terrorist activity was sufficient to show that this part of Bengal was more important from a terrorist point of view than had hitherto been supposed.

73. A gun was seized from a boat at Dacca, and on the 15th October an absconding détenu was arrested near Dacca with a pistol in his trunk. A bomb was found at Garangul, district Bakarganj, on the 25th of the same month.

74. In November a cartridge and materials for preparing ammunition were recovered at Vishnupur, district Bankura.

75. Early in December extensive house searches were carried out in the Rangpur district in which troops provided cordons. Some objectionable literature and a bottle of acid were found in Kurigram, and in consequence of information subsequently received a revolver and some recently purchased seditious books were recovered in Gaibandha. Later in the month two country-made pistols, one revolver and some ammunition were recovered in Mymensingh, a dozen live revolver cartridges in Rangpur, and

a youth found with dynamite was arrested at Kharagpur (Midnapore district). On the 15th December six revolver cartridges and some gun cartridges were discovered in a search at Sawali (district Mymensingh).

76. Troop movements were begun in November in Rangpur and Midnapore, being combined in the latter district with vigorous anti-terrorist propaganda on the part of the civil authorities.

77. In December flag-marching in Birbhum district was combined with a well-attended Durbar held by the District Magistrate and the troops were everywhere well received. In Midnapore throughout December the holding of very largely attended Darbars all over the district was a prominent feature. Flag saluting ceremonies also were held in connection with them. In the Dacca district two companies of the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment were located in five posts in affected areas of the Munshigunj subdivision and a large number of orders under section 2A of the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Act were issued on local party members. Forty suspects from that area who were in Dacca city were suitably dealt with. Troops were out in all three regulation districts in the Chittagong Division, and the co-operation of the Tripura State authorities was sought to prevent absconders from Noakhali and Chittagong finding an asylum in State territory. In Mymensingh restrictive orders were reported to have an excellent effect, and the presence of troops in the troublesome Madaripur subdivision of Faridpur district, combined with propaganda, produced good results.

78. Government, however, and latterly in increasing measure the public, recognised that the application of legislative measures cannot by themselves produce the desired result and that general opinion must be mobilised against the terrorist cult. His Excellency the Viceroy put the point clearly in his address to the legislature on August 29th after his return from England when he said explicitly, "As for terrorism, legislation and police action by themselves would not by themselves eradicate this hideous evil: public opinion alone could do this."

79. His Excellency Sir John Woodhead's words in addressing the Police Parade at Dacca on the 22nd August summed up the attitude of Government. "But we must not delude ourselves," he said, "into believing that the efforts of official agencies alone can eradicate the evils of terrorism. These agencies can check the outward manifestations of the movement, but they cannot remove the poison that is responsible for recruitment to the terrorist cause. This can only be accomplished with the assistance of a vigorous public opinion born of the conviction that the future happiness of

Bengal will be seriously imperilled so long as the terrorist cult survives, and by the creation by that common opinion of an atmosphere which will make it impossible for terrorist ideas to flourish." The progress that had been made up to that time enabled him to assure his audience: "That public opinion is beginning to take a definite stand against terrorism, there can be little doubt; and I am glad to acknowledge the debt that we owe to those public-spirited citizens who, realising that terrorism spells the destruction of society, are making every endeavour to rally opinion against it."

That His Excellency's were not idle words is shown by the example of Chittagong where during the year the local authorities continued to make considerable progress with propaganda against terrorism. Committees of parents and guardians were working with increasingly satisfactory results, and the District Magistrate was able to report that in his opinion there was a definite change of heart among many of the older members of the Hindu community. The Buddhist Association, on being supplied with a list of some 80 Buddhist youths known to be under the influence of terrorism, took action to counteract this development, and the "Young Moslem Self-Realisation League" set itself to organise village propaganda against terrorism. Similar activities though not all on the same lines were being pursued in Midnapore and other districts and the attempt on His Excellency the Governor at Lebong gave the movement fresh stimulus. In fact throughout the province the tide of public opinion began to set steadily against terrorist methods. In different parts of the province local Associations were formed and Committees set up, the Press began to adopt a more decided tone and the British Indian Association, composed of the principal land owners of the Province, inaugurated a valuable anti-terrorist programme. This Association organised on the 16th September a conference consisting of leaders of public opinion from all districts, and of all shades of politics, and the resolutions passed betokened full appreciation of the efforts made by Government to cope with the terrorist menace and the importance of the part that public opinion can play in fighting subversive movements.

80. Many meetings, both non-official and official, were held throughout the Midnapore district towards the end of the year, and the District Magistrate and Additional District Magistrate in the course of extensive cold weather tours, addressed the students and their guardians of most of the high schools in the district. Former supporters of Congress addressed propaganda meetings, and some particularly staunch opponents of Government in the past actively associated themselves with the drive against

terrorism. In Chittagong, in addition to the existing forms of propaganda, house to house visits by committee members of the anti-terrorist organisation were undertaken with encouraging results. At the close of the year it was clear that there had been a definite and general improvement in the state of public feeling.

81. Though the year opened with the attempted massacre of Europeans at the cricket ground at Chittagong, followed soon by the attempt to shoot His Excellency the Governor at Lebong, there was a decrease in all forms of terrorist crime, and the only outrages during the later six months of the year were a dacoity at Balla, district Dinajpur, in July, and a dacoity at Gangail in district Mymensingh in October. It would be a mistake, however, to suppose that the decrease in outrages is a justification for any relaxation of vigilance. Finds of arms, the issue of revolutionary leaflets, finds of literature of a subversive type, and the stream of threatening letters which still finds its way to all grades of officials, are all indications of the fact that terrorist activities still exist. The arrest of absconders in the 24-Parganas district and the discovery of the organisation which they were building up have shown how easy it still is for a few determined revolutionaries to gain adherents.

82. Some statistics are illuminating. The revolvers and pistols recovered in Bengal numbered 33 in 1930, 44 in 1931, 61 in 1932, 50 in 1933, and 49 in 1934 (this last figure is provisional).

83. The number of outrages in the year was 15. The number of terrorist cases (excluding action taken under the preventive sections of the Penal Code, the Bengal Suppression of Terrorist Outrages Act and the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Act) during the year was 70. Conviction was obtained in 34 cases, 22 cases are still under trial or enquiry, and the remainder were dropped. No fewer than 59 absconders were arrested during the year. Two private persons were killed during the year by terrorists, and two terrorists were killed.

84. The number of cases of arrests under the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Act up to and including 1933 was 2,485. In 1934 there were 745 arrests, making a total of 3,230 up to 31st December 1934 (including some 122 re-arrests). Of these, the number under various forms of restraint, i.e., jail detention, detention in camps, village domicile or home domicile on the 31st December was 2,837, the remainder having been released. There are also 18 persons detained under Regulation III of 1818 as State prisoners, and 543 persons have been subjected to minor forms of restriction under section 2A of the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Act of 1930 by District Magistrates.

85. At the end of the year the notorious absconder Binode Dutt of Chittagong was still at large, and two of the under-trial prisoners who escaped from the Presidency Jail, including Sitanath De, were still uncaptured. There are also other important revolutionaries still untraced.

86. A disquieting proof that revolutionary thoughts still fill the mind of a large section of the Hindu *bhadralok* youth of Bengal is furnished by the quantities of revolutionary literature which are seized from time to time. So long as there is no diminution in this flood of inflammatory matter, there can be no question that a revival of terrorist activity on a large scale is certain as soon as pressure is relaxed.

87. Though the situation in Bengal has improved, the improvement will last only so long as constant pressure is maintained. Terrorism has not yet been eradicated from Bengal, and never will be, merely by special legislation. But it has been, and can always be, kept in check by the firm use of the powers granted by special legislation. The only hope of its disappearing lies in a complete change of heart on the part of the terrorists and those who sympathise with the terrorists. Reference has already been made to the improvement in the public attitude towards terrorism. If this attitude can be maintained, then there is every hope that with the help of police action terrorist activities will eventually be brought to an end as they were in 1918. But the terrorist parties are not yet as crippled as they were in 1918, and there is still unfortunately every indication that the leaders who are interned are determined to recommence the organisation of revolution the moment they are released.

Floods and Natural Calamities.

88. Though prices were low, the year opened with the harvesting of good crops in all parts of the province, except a few areas which still suffered from the effects of flood. The earthquake of 15th January did no damage to land or crops in Bengal. On the 17th and 18th February a severe hailstorm caused considerable damage in Malda, Pabna, Rangpur and Rajshahi. About 400 houses were wrecked in three villages in Rajshahi, and six persons were killed and many injured. On the 22nd February a tornado damaged some houses in police-station Santhia (district Pabna) with the loss of two lives. The local authorities took steps to give immediate relief and medical assistance. In March outbreaks of fire caused heavy losses, in Murshidabad, Pabna and Burdwan districts. Relief was organised in each case by the local authorities.

89. In June havy floods due to sudden and excessive rainfall were reported from the Netrakona subdivision of Mymensingh, the Brahmanbaria subdivision of Tippera and the Feni subdivision of Noakhali, areas which receive the excess flood waters of the Assam and Tripura Hills, and much damage was caused to standing crops. In contrast to this, the monsoon partially failed in some areas in western Bengal, making transplantation of paddy difficult or impossible and adversely affecting the crop in those areas which had already been transplanted. The areas which suffered most severely from drought were the tract of high land in the western part of Murshidabad district known as the Rahr, and a similar tract in Birbhum. Rajshahi, Malda, Bankura and Burdwan also felt the lack of rain. Throughout western Bengal the rainfall was much below normal, and the area under winter rice showed a considerable fall.

90. In September floods affected parts of the Malda, Murshidabad and Rajshahi districts. In Malda the standing crops were almost entirely destroyed over a large area. In Murshidabad about 5,000 houses collapsed and about 8,000 people at one time were in receipt of gratuitous relief. It is remarkable and fortunately unusual that three districts should suffer simultaneously from both flood and drought in the same season.

91. In October torrential rain caused extensive damage to crops in parts of the Cox's Bazar subdivision of Chittagong, and a certain amount of gratuitous relief had to be given. Heavy rain also caused some damage to the transplanted *Aman* paddy in the Meghna valley in Tippera, Mymensingh and Dacca districts, and in Brahmanbaria subdivision the position was reported to be serious.

92. As the year progressed, the water slowly receded from the flooded areas leaving a rich deposit of silt, and timely showers improved the condition of standing crops in the Burdwan Division. The new Damodar Canal, which had just come into operation, saved the situation in the area which it serves, the difference between crops on irrigated and unirrigated lands being most striking. Distress in Murshidabad and Birbhum districts, however, gradually became more acute, and in both districts test relief works had to be opened in the autumn on a fairly extensive scale. The District Boards aided by advances from Government, rose to the occasion, and the promptitude with which action was taken in these districts undoubtedly prevented a great deal of suffering and privation.

93. In Burdwan district additional road making was undertaken, which helped to relieve the labouring classes. Local relief committees did good work in the affected districts in providing employment and distributing gratuitous relief when required, with the help of Government and local funds and private charity.

94. The situation in Brahmanbaria subdivision of Tippera turned out to be even more serious than was at first anticipated, and the local relief committees had to spend considerable sums in providing employment for the destitute.

95. Towards the end of the year the test relief operations which had commenced in Western Bengal were reduced or suspended temporarily for the period of the winter harvest. But there were indications that distress in 1935 was likely to become even more acute in the districts principally affected by drought. Considerable sums were advanced by Government in the form of agricultural loans, gratuitous relief and advances to District Boards for test relief works.

Economic Situation.

96. In the areas not affected by flood and drought, crops were on the whole satisfactory. There was a slight rise in the price of cereals which gave some relief to the cultivator, but the rise in the price of jute came too late to give the cultivator any appreciable benefit. Generally speaking, there was no material change in economic conditions in rural areas, except that there is reason to believe that cultivators are adjusting themselves to their more straitened circumstances.

97. The index numbers of wholesale prices in Calcutta during the year are shown below—

1934.	Cereals.	Pulses.	Oilseeds.	Mustard oil.	Raw jute.	Hides and skins.
January ..	61	78	75	48	42	74
February ..	62	84	76	50	43	61
March ..	61	84	78	46	42	59
April ..	66	89	85	51	40	52
May ..	68	85	94	56	37	54
June ..	71	86	99	58	36	46
July ..	71	83	99	55	35	44
August ..	77	86	99	55	38	41
September ..	74	84	100	53	37	44
October ..	73	85	98	53	38	44
November ..	71	83	99	55	42	45
December ..	..	..	..	..	..	..

98. Landlords are still experiencing difficulty in realising their rents. The statement below of revenue defaults (permanently-settled and temporarily-settled estates) of the January, March and June kists of 1934, as compared with the corresponding figures of 1933, will indicate this—

Year.	Total Number of Defaulting Estates.	Total amount of defaults.
		Rs.
1933 January	6,862	21,26,050
1934 January	7,136	21,81,505
1933 March	9,395	28,83,923
1934 March	9,813	26,93,440
1933 June	6,282	9,96,883
1934 June	6,053	10,89,164

99. The ability of the cultivator to pay his current rent, even under present conditions, provided that he reaps a good crop, was strikingly demonstrated by the successful results of action taken under section 99 of the Cess Act in the district of Rangpur, and the success which attended efforts to improve collections of rent in the Government estates of Bakarganj district. In most Court of Wards estates also, collection of rent improved, but in private estates not under the Court of Wards the improvement was not so marked. This is due partly to less efficient management, and partly to other causes. It is probable that a large number of zemindars will never restore their estates to a sound financial position, owing to the accumulated weight of debts and interest at high rates. Inability of the tenant to pay his rent punctually is certainly a factor, but this inability appears to be due chiefly to the reluctance of the cultivator to lower his standard of living, and not so much to his rent being unduly high, having regard to the present level of prices. This reluctance to reduce expenditure is illustrated by the figures recently collected by the Board of Economic Enquiry, from which it will be seen that the average income of the cultivator fell by about 50 per cent. between 1928 and 1933, while his expenses fell by only 40 per cent. approximately. The fall in the price level of commodities in general was about 40 per cent. so that it appears that the cultivator has kept up his previous standard of living, with the result that his expenditure has tended to exceed his income and his debts have in consequence increased. As the result of enquiries by the Settlement Department in the district of Rangpur, it appears that of the outstanding debts of the cultivators, most were incurred between 1928 and 1930 and that since then borrowing has

practically ceased. This is probably typical of the state of affairs in the jute growing areas of the province, where many of the cultivators became used to a high standard of living and consequently felt the pinch when jute prices dropped.

100. It would thus appear that the standard of living of the cultivator is much the same as in 1928. He is almost as well fed and as well clothed as he used to be. But his debts have increased and he finds it more difficult to pay his rent. It is also more difficult for him to borrow money when he gets into difficulties.

Board of Economic Enquiry.

101. This Board was constituted by Government Resolution of the 1st December 1933, following the announcement made by His Excellency Sir John Anderson the previous evening in the course of his speech at the St. Andrews' Day Dinner. The personnel of the Board was not finally settled until the 26th February, and the first meeting of the Board took place on the 14th March. In the meantime, however, the note of Government discussing the broad aspects of indebtedness among the agricultural population of Bengal, had been circulated to all members. Apart from the question of reconciling the diverse reports of the Jute Committee this question of rural indebtedness was the only subject referred to the Board by Government in accordance with the terms of reference.

102. His Excellency the Governor opened the proceedings of the first meeting at Government House on the 14th March, with a short speech in which he reviewed the circumstances in which the Board had been constituted and emphasised the importance of its task. The Board was from one point of view an experiment; from another, it was the hope of Bengal. It had been brought into existence in response to a public demand, and while its functions were deliberative, it would have ample work to do in examining the economic life of the province in all its aspects. In conclusion His Excellency dwelt briefly on the necessity of the active support of the public in the examination and solution of economic problems and hoped that, with the assistance of the Board, Government would soon be in a position to congratulate themselves on having put forth a determined effort to build a better Bengal.

103. A general discussion of the scope of the Board's activities followed: the extent to which it would be necessary for it to make enquiries on its own behalf, and the agencies it could employ were

also discussed. It was pointed out that there was a vast volume of statistical information available about the budgets and economic conditions of agricultural families in Bengal, in settlement reports, in the publications of the Government of India and of the Agricultural Department of the Local Government, and in the report of the Banking Committee. The general feeling was to the effect that the first thing to be done was to have this material investigated and epitomized and placed before all the members in a convenient form. It was, however, felt that, local enquiries must be made as to the extent indebtedness had increased during the last three years of depression.

104. Accordingly a statistical sub-committee was formed to undertake these duties. Another sub-committee was appointed to study the legislation which had already been undertaken or suggested in this and other provinces with a view to relieving the problems of usurious interest and growing indebtedness. A third sub-committee was formed to study the constitution of the new land mortgage banks and other forms of credit societies and to make suggestions for their improvement and development.

105. As a result of the enquiries by the statistical sub-committee the Board accepted material to work on which may be summarised as follows:—

The number of agricultural families in the province with a permanent and transferable interest in their lands is about fifty lakhs. They are mainly occupancy raiyats though some tenure-holders who cultivate part of their lands and some under-raiyats are included. Agricultural labourers and temporary under-raiyats or bargadars are excluded. Of these fifty lakhs, 23 per cent. are not indebted at all, 43 per cent. are in debt for less than two years income, their total debt amounting to Rs. 27 crores, and 16 per cent. are in debt for less than four years' income, their total debt being Rs. 23 crores. The remaining 18 per cent. with debts exceeding four years' income, have been treated as insolvent. The total indebtedness for all families the Board estimate to be in the neighbourhood of Rs. 97 crores.

106. While this information was being collected, the other sub-committees and the staff of the Board were considering the legislation and experiments that had been made in other provinces and in certain Indian States to deal with the question of agricultural indebtedness. The conclusion finally reached was that the problem was so immense that it did not much matter whether 40 per cent. or 70 per cent. of agricultural families were in debt or whether their average debt was Rs. 50 or Rs. 150. The real figures for

individual families would only be ascertained when the work of dealing with their debts was taken up, and the work of debt conciliation could only be taken up as an experiment. The extent of the experiment was dependent on the resources of Government as regards finance and staff. However a Bill has been drafted, which is now under consideration by Government, which is based on the principle that Adjustment Boards shall in course of time take up every case of indebtedness.

107. One of the questions asked of the Board in the Government note was whether agriculturists had sufficient surplus to repay their existing debts. After consideration of the figures arrived at in the various enquiries the Board were of opinion that not much importance could be attached to the figures for income and expenditure either in 1928 (which had been selected as the pre-depression year) or in 1933. The important fact established is that in every case the average debt is shown to be less than the income of the year 1928, and on this basis there is every reason to suppose that with the exercise of due economy in expenditure, scaling down of debts and reduction of excessive interest, and the spreading of repayment over a period of years by equated payments, the problem of removing the weight of debt will be on its way to solution. But as yet there has been no agreement on the vital problems whether, if conciliation fails, there should be any resort to compulsion; whether the scheme can be worked successfully in the absence of cash payments, or if these are deemed essential, from what sources the money is to be provided; what classes of debtors are to receive priority of treatment by the Adjustment Boards; and what powers of sale should be taken in case of default in payment of the equated instalments.

Jute Restriction.

108. The Report of the Jute Enquiry Committee was published in March 1934, and the widely divergent opinions of its members on almost every problem of importance connected with jute provoked universal discussion in the province. Soon after publication Government issued a Press Note asking for the co-operation of all non-official bodies in the task of restricting the sowing of jute, on the desirability of which every one was agreed, though opinions were very divided about the methods to be adopted. The response was disappointing, the crop of 1934 being much in excess of that of the previous year. At Comilla in July His Excellency the Governor raised the problem whether reliance could be placed on measures of voluntary restriction stimulated by propaganda

and pointed out that there were many who thought that more effective means must be devised of bringing the supply of jute into equilibrium with the probable demand. The Jute Enquiry Committee, with one dissentient, had advised against the immediate adoption of compulsory restriction, and Government decided to adopt for 1935 a policy which represented the greatest measure of agreement among all the members of the Jute Enquiry Committee and to endeavour to secure a reduction of the area under jute cultivation by voluntary restriction. In order that this method might be given every chance of success, it was obvious that the methods of propaganda employed during the previous two or three years would have to be very considerably improved and intensified, and it was also felt that the time had come to prescribe a definite percentage of reduction.

109. Government announced this percentage on the 9th January 1935. In judging the extent of reduction, it was decided to aim at a reduction such that if each cultivator complied with it, there would be grounds for a reasonable expectation of some improvement in the price of the fibre without undue risk of reactions upon the demand for the finished product. The figure was eventually announced, not as a percentage (which the cultivator might not understand) but as being so many annas, sixteen annas representing the acreage under jute last year. The figure decided on was five annas: in other words the area to be planted with jute should be eleven annas of last year's acreage.

110. Government took vigorous steps to push on the propaganda during the year under review. A special officer was appointed for the organisation of propaganda in the whole province, working under the Rural Development Commissioner. Additional propaganda officers were posted in the most important jute-growing districts. The remaining districts of Bengal are of less importance individually as regards jute although their aggregate outturn is considerable. In all of them where jute is grown, jute control charges have been formed and the work of propaganda is being carried on by the District Officer and his staff, with non-official aid. Members and Ministers have also undertaken tours and delivered speeches in the principal jute growing districts. Many meetings have been held with good results: of these some have been at hats for the benefit of the cultivators while others have been composed of presidents and members of Union Boards and local matbars who will take part in the propaganda work. Collectors' reports indicate that an impression has undoubtedly been made. Cultivators have come forward voluntarily to give written pledges and take solemn oaths to restrict the sowing of

jute. There has been a very keen demand for sugarcane cuttings and for seed for groundnuts, linseed, lady's finger, tipari and napier grass. In general it may be said that the response has been favourable in proportion to the amount of jute grown in each district. It is only in the districts where little jute is grown and where public opinion among cultivators is therefore not very strong in regard to restriction that the response has been less favourable.

Demonstration Parties.

111. In pursuance of the scheme adopted by Government for the relief of middle-class unemployment in Bengal, 28 demonstration parties have been established by the Department of Industries, i.e., 4 parties in each of the seven industries selected, viz., jute and wool-weaving, umbrella-making, cutlery, brass and bell-metal, soap-making, shoe-making and pottery, at a cost of about rupees one lakh per annum, mainly with the object of diverting the attention of bhadralok young men to the possibilities of small industries located in their own mufassal towns and larger villages, and therefore closely identified with local needs and marketing opportunities. The 28 parties have been working in different centres of the province in close co-operation with the District Advisory Associations, wherever these have been formed. In this way during the last 18 months opportunities have been afforded to something like 800 bhadralok young men, usually with educational qualifications of Matriculation or above, who would otherwise have been living idly and with no definite purpose in life, to receive suitable training in the different productive industries of the province. Of these 800 young men about one-third did not complete their training. Of the remaining two-thrds about 150 have definitely started small umbrella-making, cutlery, boot and shoe or soap factories, giving employment to 3 or 4 or even more workers in each case, and many of them have acknowledged the opportunity they have had, and expressed their confidence that they can make further progress in the line which they have started to follow. In addition there are particulars of about 90 others who have secured employment as workers in already established industries—soap factories, umbrella factories, small engineering concerns and weaving factories. The numbers in the aggregate are not large but when it is remembered that till comparatively recent years few or no bhadralok boys would consent to do craft work requiring skill and manipulation and when it is also remembered that the welfare of the widespread cottage and small industries of Bengal depends very largely on bhadralok young men taking up the organization and development of these small

industries as a possible career in life, it will be admitted that Government have made a definite attempt to show the way to the economic regeneration of the smaller industries of Bengal.

Land Mortgage Banks.

112. Government in April 1934 decided to establish five land mortgage banks on co-operative lines as an experimental measure in selected areas. Three banks have already been started, one at Mymensingh in May, one at Pabna in June, and one at Comilla in August. Two more banks, one at Jessore and the other at Suri (Birbhum) have been registered, with a view to beginning work early in 1935.

113. Up to the 30th October last the number of applications for membership were 652 at Mymensingh, 94 at Comilla, and 625 at Pabna. Preliminary enquiries into the assets, liabilities and repaying capacity of the prospective members took up some time. The next stage was the acceptance of applications for loans. Up to the 30th October there were 652 applications at Mymensingh. Seventy-four at Comilla, and 60 at Pabna. Enquiries into the rights and title to the lands proposed to be mortgaged and previous encumbrances, were taken up. The question of co-sharers in the property proposed to be mortgaged had to be solved by persuading them to become members and join in the execution of the bonds. Finally a conciliation and scaling down of debts by negotiation with the creditors had to be effected. Up to the 30th October 31 loan petitions for loans aggregating Rs. 7,495 had been considered and sanctioned by the Provincial Bank. The progress during the short period the banks have been in existence is not considered inadequate in view of the preliminary difficulties encountered.

Industry and Labour.

114. The industrial situation throughout 1934 was generally quiet and apart from the dislocation in the match industry caused by the imposition of an excise duty on matches and the dock strike in the Port of Calcutta the province was remarkably free from labour troubles.

115. The excise duty on matches came into force on the 1st April 1934, and, apprehending a fall in consumption, a number of manufacturers closed their factories temporarily to watch the tendency of the market. About four thousand workers were thus thrown out of employment, but market conditions soon settled

down and by September practically all factories had resumed full working hours. During April and May attempts were made by extremist leaders to exploit the situation and an ad hoc organisation styling itself the Calcutta Match Workers Union was called into existence. There were a number of rowdy meetings and the police were forcd to take action on more than one occasion. Manufacturers, however, made every effort to mitigate the hardships of the workers thrown out of employment, and, as factories gradually resumed normal working hours, the situation ceased to cause anxiety.

116. Ever since the registration of the Port and Dock Workers' Union, Calcutta, on the 9th March, 1934, the leaders of this body had been agitating for a revision of the wages and hours of work of the class of labour employed under stevedores in loading and unloading cargo in the Port of Calcutta. On the morning of the 26th November 1934, about 6,000 coolies employed under stevedores went on strike in pursuance of a decision taken at a meeting held on the previous day under the auspices of the Port and Dock Workers' Union. As a result of the strike, work on ships in the Port was brought to a complete stand-still. By the morning of the 27th November sufficient local labour (Chinese, Anglo-Indian, etc.), had been collected under police protection to work about 8 ships and on the following day some 15 ships were worked. Labour was imported from Rangoon, Chittagong and the Coromandel Coast and housed on board ships in the river. These temporary measures prevented any serious dislocation of traffic in the Port.

117. In a statement to the Press by the joint committee of steamer agents and stevedores which had been formed specially to deal with the strike, it was announced that the committee was ready to investigate the alleged grievances of the stevedores' labour, provided that the strike was called off and the men returned to work. It was further stated that intervention by the Bengal Trade Unions Federation on the same condition would be appreciated. The Federation at a meeting on the 5th December offered its assistance, but the strikers showed no willingness to negotiate. Demonstrations were held to attract public sympathy to the cause, and although there is no doubt that there were cases of intimidation in the bustees and elsewhere, the conduct of the strikers was on the whole peaceful and orderly.

118. A debate was held on the subject of this strike in the Bengal Legislative Council on the 12th December, 1934, when an adjournment motion was moved by Mr. P. Banerji, M.L.C. In the course of the debate the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Finance,

Commerce and Marine Departments of the Government of Bengal announced that to end the deadlock and to facilitate the opening of negotiations between the stevedores and their employees, Government were prepared to give an assurance that if the strikers returned to work and if within a period of three weeks from the date of their return no settlement was reached between the parties, they would appoint a Court of Inquiry under section 3 of the Trade Disputes Act to investigate the alleged grievances of the workers. On the basis of this assurance and of a promise given by the Steamship Companies that there would be no victimisation the men returned to work on the morning of the 17th December, 1934.

119. Following the resumption of work a Joint Arbitration Committee was formed to settle the future conditions of work of these labourers. As the joint committee of the Steamship Companies and the Master Stevedores refused to recognise or to treat with the Port and Dock Workers' Union on account of its communistic associations, another body calling itself the Calcutta Dockers' Union was called into existence under the leadership of Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy, M.L.C., and this body nominated three representatives to represent the stevedores' labour on the Joint Arbitration Committee. An agreement covering the whole field of work in the docks was drawn up and signed. The main concessions allowed by this agreement were a reduction of one hour in the daily working hours and a rise of about 14 per cent. in the daily wages of a gang. The agreement came into force on the 9th January 1935.

120. The proposal to allocate eight seats to labour in the reformed Provincial Assembly and the expectation that the bulk of these seats would be allotted to registered trade unions were probably responsible for the considerable increase in general labour activities during 1934, and the outstanding feature of the year was the rivalry on the part of various political groups to capture different sections of labour with a view to their organisation and registration. The most conspicuous example of this tendency was the rise of the Port and Dock Workers' Union, Calcutta.

121. The inner history of this union leaves no room for doubt that its activities were not *bona fide* labour activities and that the ultimate aim of those responsible for its organisation was the exploitation of the workers for political ends. The organisers were however shrewd enough to realise that before they could hope to use the organisation for their own purposes it was necessary to win the confidence of the workers and to consolidate their

own position of leadership by demonstrating the efficacy of collective action and by securing a considerable improvement in the conditions of employment. Although this union was less than a year old and its membership on 31st March 1934 was under 300, it was successful in bringing out the whole of the stevedores' labour employed in the Port of Calcutta and in keeping them out until an assurance was forthcoming that if no agreement was reached by direct negotiations between employers and employed within three weeks of their return to work, Government would appoint a Court of Inquiry.

122. The appearance of a new organisation styling itself the Bengal Labour Association is reported to represent an attempt on the part of the Indian National Congress to secure the allegiance of certain sections of manual workers.

123. Apart from the Port and Dock Workers' Union the most active of the registered trade unions were the Calcutta Tramway Workers' Union, the R. S. N. and I. G. N. and Rly. Companies Workers' Union and the Engineering and Metal Workers' Union all three of which went very near to bringing out their members on more than one occasion during the year.

Tour of the Viceroy.

124. His Excellency the Viceroy was in Calcutta from 21st December 1933 to the 15th January 1934, and carried out the usual winter programme. He came to Calcutta again on his annual cold weather visit on the 11th December 1934, and on each occasion fulfilled a crowded programme. He addressed the Associated Chambers of Commerce on the 17th December and the European Association on the 20th December. The annual Viceregal Garden Party was held on the 21st December 1934 and attended by over 4,000 guests: the Viceregal Ball was held on the 28th December. Their Excellencies, accompanied by His Excellency Sir John Anderson, set up a new landmark in the history of flying, just after the close of the year, by journeying to Dacca by air on January 8th, immediately before their return to Delhi. Flying there in the morning, they spent the day in inspecting the Government Agricultural Farm, and in viewing the Race Course and military barracks. They flew back to Calcutta in the afternoon. The whole trip occupied some eight hours as against a minimum time by steamer and train of at least two days.

Governor's Tour.

125. His Excellency Sir John Anderson visited the districts of Comilla and Noakhali in July 1934.

Leaving Calcutta on July 22nd His Excellency arrived in Comilla on the following afternoon. On the morning of the 24th he made a public arrival at the Town Hall where addresses of welcome were presented by the Comilla Municipality, District Board and Muslim Anjuman. On the 25th His Excellency visited the Police Lines and attended a Parade of the 1/9th Gurkha Rifles, which was followed in the afternoon by a Garden Party given in his honour by the Honourable Nawab K. G. M. Faroqui, Khan Bahadur of Ratanpur.

His Excellency arrived at Noakhali from Comilla on the morning of the 26th and after his Public Arrival addresses were presented by the Noakhali Municipality, District Board, Anjuman-i-Islamia and Hindu Surhid Sanmilani Sabha. His Excellency inspected Maijdi and the erosion caused by the Noakhali Khal and the River Meghna and in the afternoon attended a Garden Party given by Babu Hem Chandra Roy Choudhuri, M.L.C. Both at Comilla and Noakhali His Excellency granted numerous interviews to prominent local officials and non-officials. His Excellency left Noakhali on the night of 27th July and returned to Calcutta the following day.

126. The Hon'ble Sir John Woodhead, the Acting Governor of Bengal, visited Dacca from August 13th to 25th flying there and back to Calcutta, this being the first occasion on which a Governor of Bengal has used this means of transport.

During the course of his stay he presided over the Dacca University and the Eastern Bengal Saraswat Samaj Convocations. He held a Durbar on the afternoon of 21st August and also presided over the Police Parade where he addressed the recipients of the King's Police Medal and those members of the general public to whom rewards were given at the Parade.

PART II.

CHAPTER I.

States, Forces and External Affairs.

Cooch Behar.

Cooch Behar.

Mr. F. W. Robertson, I.C.S., Commissioner of the Rajshahi Division, was the *ex officio* Political Agent. Lt.-Col. K. A. G. Evans Gordon, I.A., held the office of Vice-President of the Council of Regency up to 13th March 1934, when he was succeeded by Lt.-Col. J. A. Brett, C.I.E. The Regency Council and the Legislative Council of the State met as usual. The demarcation of the Cooch Behar-Rangpur boundary was taken up during the year under review and a Commission appointed for the purpose. The boundary laid down by the Commissioners has been accepted by the Cooch Behar Durbar and is awaiting acceptance by Government. The revenue of the state for the year amounted to Rs. 24,89,554, showing a decrease of Rs. 1,63,674 from the previous year. Expenditure amounted to Rs. 24,83,947, showing a decrease of Rs. 1,80,391. The anticipated deficit was avoided as a sum of Rs. 40,000 provided towards repayment of the Baroda loan was not expended, and the net result on the year's working was a small surplus of Rs. 5,607. Revenue under the main heads of "Land Revenue," "Excise" and "Stamps" showed a decrease of nearly two lakhs of rupees, but this drop was partly set off by improved collections from the Maharaja's Darjeeling and other estates. Expenditure under the head of "Civil List" showed an increase of Rs. 38,892 but this was more than offset by savings under the head "Allowance" owing to the death of Her Highness the Dowager Maharani Suniti Devi.

2. The net earnings of the Cooch Behar State Railway (Rs. 1,87,343) were almost precisely the same as in the previous year, and work out roughly at 7 per cent. on the total capital at charge.

3. The cash balance of the state with the Government of Bengal was reduced from Rs. 11,38,506 to Rs. 7,38,233 during the year under review.

4. Remission of revenue amounting to above six lakhs of rupees was granted to the jotedars during the year. Rainfall during the year was below normal, but the weather on the whole was not unfavourable for the growth of jute. Owing to the low price of jute the area under cultivation was less than in the previous year. There was no noticeable improvement in the economic condition of the people, and much improvement cannot be expected until the general economic cloud shows signs of lifting. Measures were taken to help the agriculturalists. The post of Agricultural Officer was created at the beginning of the year under report. The officer appointed was on tour for 162 days in the year. Free seeds and sugarcane cuttings were distributed; and demonstration plots set apart in different villages. Demonstration was made of practical gur-making in the Sadar and Tufangunj subdivisions. Efforts are being made to bring a larger area under sugarcane cultivation.

5. The opening of the new railway line from Dinajpur to Ruhea has led to a diversion of jute traffic in that direction thereby affecting adversely the State Bundar of Haldibari, which must find some other source of revenue if it is to return to its former prosperity.

6. There was a general decline in civil litigation during the year, the total number of suits instituted being 10,779 as against 14,665 in the previous year. The decrease mainly occurs under the head of rent suits. There was a slight increase in the total number of criminal cases instituted, from 1,933 in the year 1932-33 to 2,295 in the year under review. The amount of serious crime was about the same as in the previous year. Touring by the Subdivisional Naib Ahilkars was up to standard, while all the subdivisions except Mathabhanga were inspected by the Fouzdari Ahilkar during the year. A new sub-registry office was opened at Haldibari. The strength of the police force remained the same as in the previous year, except that owing to the continuance of revolutionary activities in the Province of Bengal and its repercussions in the State, a whole-time officer was appointed in charge of the Intelligence Branch. Of the total police force, 30 were Cooch Beharis, all in the rank of constable, and 230 outsiders. The conduct of the police remained satisfactory.

7. Jail administration was satisfactory. An attempt was made during the year to give primary education to convicts who

desired it. It is reported that some of them displayed a taste for learning and made satisfactory progress. Jail industries included the manufacture of aerated waters, which yielded an increased profit.

8. A certain amount of extra expenditure was incurred in repairs to Government buildings on account of earthquake damage, and in repairs to roads owing to flood damage.

9. The state electric supply, waterworks, ice manufactory and telephone and telegraph system worked satisfactorily during the year.

10. The state educational system underwent no important change in the year. The number of pupils in primary, secondary and college stages all showed a slight decline, although the average attendance showed an increase on the previous year.

11. The general health of the state was not very good. Malaria increased, also cholera and smallpox threatened to assume epidemic form at Sadar. The total number of vaccinations during the year rose from 23,218 to 31,519. The total expenditure on state hospitals and dispensaries increased from Rs. 27,929 to Rs. 30,042.

Tripura.

General.

12. On 13th December 1933 a son and heir Maharaja Kumar Kirit Bikram Deb Barman Bahadur was born to His Highness in Calcutta.

Political Agent.

13. Mr. R. L. Walker, I.C.S., continued to be the Political Agent till 19th March 1934, when he was succeeded by Mr. E. W. Holland, I.C.S., the present Political Agent.

Finance.

14. The gross revenue based on the average of the previous five years was Rs. 20,86,795 from the state and Rs. 9,38,727 from zemindaries against Rs. 20,01,308 and Rs. 10,41,930, respectively, in the preceding year. The total receipts from all sources including deposits, loans and law charges recovered amounted to Rs. 34,37,193 against Rs. 25,90,046 in the previous year. The total sum available for expenditure including the opening balance was Rs. 44,42,474 against Rs. 36,55,196 in the previous year. The actual income including receipts under debt heads amounted to Rs. 22,89,127 against Rs. 22,43,703 in the previous year, showing an increase of Rs. 45,424. The total expenditure during the year amounted to Rs. 30,40,040 against Rs. 26,49,915 in the previous year, showing an increase of Rs. 3,90,125. The year

closed with a balance of Rs. 14,02,434. During the year the Durbar took a loan of Rs. 9 lakhs from the Government of India, to extinguish old liabilities and set the finances of the state on a sound footing. This sum is included in the figure for total receipts, and that for the total expenditure during the year includes a sum of Rs. 4,88,611 devoted to the repayment of old debts. In the previous year only Rs. 1,33,649 was spent on this account.

Crops and conditions of the people.

15. The rainfall of the year was 83·02 inches against 70·56 inches in the previous year. The quinquennial average was 85·44 inches. The people of the state are mostly agriculturists and the principal crops in the state are paddy, jute, mustard, til, sugarcane and cotton. The population laboured under great financial difficulties, as low prices for indigenous commodities continued to rule. The condition of the hill population was slightly better. It has now been definitely established that conditions in the state are suitable for tea-cultivation, and during the year there were clear indications of the future prosperity of this infant industry. The export of tea rose during the year to 2½ lakhs of pounds and the Tea Restriction Scheme enhanced the value of the crop. At the same time the apprehended effect of the scheme as a shackle on the expansion of this new industry engaged the attention of the Durbar.

Public Health.

16. During the year under report there were 159 deaths from cholera and cases of smallpox and kala-azar also occurred.

Crime.

17. The total number of cases reported to the police was 1,009 as against 1,198 in the previous year. In all 623 presons were arrested in connection with various offences and 824 persons sent up for trial by the police. The percentage of convictions rose during the year from 26·96 to 33·39. The percentage of theft cases in which stolen property was recovered was 14·99 against 14·73 of the previous year. There were 20 cases under the Arms Act during the year, 12 persons being convicted and 2 discharged. Six stolen guns were recovered either by the State or the British Police, with whom co-operation continued to be cordial. The system of co-operation meetings at which British police officers were present was introduced, and also a system of recording finger prints which is already yielding results.

Education.

18. Including 5 high English schools one branch high English school and private schools the total number of schools was 184 against 205 in the previous year. The number of pupils was 8,342 against 9,623. These figures include 1,093 pupils reading in private institutions which numbered 39 as against 53

in the preceding year. The total expenditure on education amounted to Rs. 1,25,021 against Rs. 1,28,441 in the previous year.

Chittagong Hill Tracts.

[Report on the Administration of Civil and Criminal Justice in the scheduled district of the Chittagong Hill Tracts for the year 1933.]

Administration of justice.

19. The Chittagong Hill Tracts were declared by a notification of the 3rd January 1921 to be "backward tracts" under section 52A of the Government of India Act. The Courts in these tracts are not subordinate to the High Court, the Deputy Commissioner's Court being the Chief Court of the district and the Court of the Commissioner of the Chittagong division being the Supreme Court.

Criminal justice.

20. The number of offences reported during the year 1933 was 414, of which 229 were returned as true and 229 were brought to trial. Six hundred and twenty-nine persons were under trial, and of these, 270 were acquitted or discharged and 191 convicted. In the cases ending in conviction, 52 persons were sentenced to imprisonment for more than six months, while in one case, the sentence was capital punishment.

Civil justice.

21. Nine hundred and twelve civil suits were instituted during the year, the total value of these suits being Rs. 1,09,351-11-10. Of the 1,116 suits before the Courts, all but 138 were disposed of.

Troops in Bengal.

22. The 7 battalions of troops (1 British and 6 Indian) constituting the "Extra Garrison of Bengal" continued their work throughout the year.

23. The objects of the original despatch of these troops to Bengal were—

(*a*) To hearten and encourage the loyal population.

(*b*) To demonstrate in no unmistakable fashion to terrorists and the disaffected that Government has at its disposal adequate means for the maintenance of law and order and the enforcement of its wishes and thus restore the position and prestige of Government, and enable them to gain the initiative.

24. The troops were stationed as follows:—

1 British battalion—Dacca.
1 Indian battalion—Comilla.
1 Indian battalion—Chittagong.
1 Indian battalion—Mymensingh.
1 Indian battalion—Midnapore.
1 Indian battalion—Saidpur.
1 Indian battalion—Bankura.

7 battalions.

25. In each area the troops were available in aid of the civil power as required and worked in close liaison with the civil and police officials. The troops were not restricted in their movements to any one district but covered many areas in which troops had not previously been seen.

26. The task of the troops varied with the situation in each area: in some cases it was to assist the police in cordoning when in search of known absconders, in others it was the formation of company and platoon posts in disturbed areas, in others it was the marching of battalions through areas which had hitherto been unaccustomed to the presence of troops, and to show the law-abiding that there was nothing to fear in the friendly visits of a body of disciplined men. In the case of flag marches the receptions given were uniformly good and demonstrations of military exercises and musketry displays were watched by interested crowds. A few examples of these are given below:—

10th January 1933.—The 1st Battalion 9th Jat Regiment, gave a demonstration of fire in the river bed of the Brahmaputra river at Mymensingh. All types of fire were employed, including an attack on dummies through a smoke screen by men wearing gas masks. Live rifle grenades were fired at a target representing a bamboo hut. About 50,000 to 60,000 people were present to watch.

1st February 1933.—The Flag March Company of the 2nd Battalion, 9th Gurkha Rifles, performed a Vickers Gun shoot in the Noakhali Khal at "chatties" placed on the mud-bank. Approximately 12,000 people witnessed this demonstration and were greatly impressed with the accurate shooting of the soldiers.

8th February 1933.—A demonstration of fire power was given by personnel of the 1st Battalion the Dorsetshire Regiment, at Dacca (Seven Temples). Demolitions by the S. and M. Company were also performed. The demonstration was witnessed by 25,000 people.

15th March 1933.—Using a dummy house as a target, a party of the 1st Royal Battalion, 9th Jat Regiment, at Jamalpur, gave a demonstration of the effect of rifle grenade fire. The dummy house was set on fire. A large crowd gathered to see this demonstration.

27. In areas such as Chittagong the troops were more actively engaged with the police against definite objectives but as the known absconders were arrested the work of the troops gradually became of a less active nature.

28. Throughout the period of residence in Bengal, the health of the "Extra Garrison" has been uniformly good. The incidence of malaria and other diseases has been extremely low. Health.

29. Generally it can be said that in the progress made towards the eradication of terrorism, the additional garrison has done its share and has worked as unobtrusively as possible. It has continued to carry out its original role with success. Liaison with civil and police officials continued to be excellent, and it can fairly be said that a time at which closer touch and understanding existed between civil authorities and the military cannot be imagined. All have worked and are working as one team and the excellent results so far attained are doubtless due largely to this fact. General.

30. For the troops the work has been new and somewhat difficult but the universal spirit of keenness evinced by all services has overcome many difficulties.

Auxiliary and Indian Territorial Force.

31. The Auxiliary Force units in the Presidency and Assam District consist of Royal Engineers, Artillery, Cavalry, Infantry, Armoured Car, Armoured Train, Light Motor Patrol, and Wireless Telegraph Sections. These compare favourably with their corresponding units in the Regular Army, and tht *esprit de-corps* and efficiency of the force is high. Members of the Auxiliary Force were at times employed during the year in guarding armouries at certain places, but it is hoped to free most of them from these duties in the future. The keenness shown by

members has again been very noticeable during the past year in spite of the present financial stringency making it impossible to supply certain units with all the up-to-date equipment and stores they require. Camps were well attended although members had to sacrifice business interests in order to be present.

32. The Indian Territorial Force units in the Presidency and Assam District comprise one Provincial Territorial Force Unit and three University Training Corps, at Calcutta, Dacca and Patna. Their training is carried out under the supervision of Regular Officers.

33. The Calcutta University Training Corps was started in 1917, when two companies were formed. In 1921 the Corps was reconstituted under the Indian Territorial Force Act, 1920, as the 2nd (Calcutta) Battalion University Training Corps. Parades actually started in July 1922 when, as a result of an intensive recruiting campaign, the strength of the unit was increased to some 550 members. In November 1922 a camp was held which was attended by 350 members and was found to be very successful. Since then camps have been held annually, but during the last three years the attendances at these camps and at parades have unfortunately declined, the numbers never having exceeded more than 50 per cent. of the authorised establishment. Training is continuous throughout the training year and the syllabus includes all phases of instruction for infantry except that devoted to automatic weapons. Demonstrations in the use of these weapons are given at regular intervals by the regular units stationed in Calcutta.

34. The 11/19th Hyderabad Regiment of the Indian Territorial Force was raised in August 1921 as the 1st (Territorial) Battalion 94th Russel's Infantry, the present designation dating from 1922. The battalion has its headquarters and two companies located at Dinapore, the latter being designated the Bihar and Orissa Wing. Two companies have their headquarters at Calcutta, and are designated the Bengal Wing. The Bengal Wing, like the Bihar and Orissa Wing, is embodied for training for two months annually, these two months being spent in camp on the Calcutta Maidan. The Bengal Wing is composed of residents of Bengal. During the annual camp British and Indian officers and Indian non-commissioned officers of the Regular Battalions of the 19th Hyderabad Regiment are attached to the Bengal Wing for the organisation and supervision of the annual training. The present strength of the Bengal Wing consists of 185 members, and the administration is carried out by the Adjutant of the 2nd (Calcutta) Battalion University Training

Corps. The attendance at the training camp 1933-34 was not good, only 40 per cent. of the total enrolled strength reported themselves. Officers showed keenness and energy during the period and fully appreciated the benefits derived from that year's training.

35. During April 1934, a recruiting tour through Bengal was carried out by a British officer, attached to this Wing. The tour has had very satisfactory results and has undoubtedly filled a long-felt want in this direction.

Eastern Frontier Rifles. (Bengal Battalion), Dacca.

36. There was no change in the strength and distribution of the battalion. Although it had fewer calls for emergency duty than in the previous year, a detachment continued to be temporarily located at Chittagong for miscellaneous duties. Owing to the frequent relief of men posted to this detachment, and to the permanent detachment at Dum-Dum, from the headquarters battalion, it was not possible to follow any regular consecutive programme of training at headquarters. The usual training was, however, carried out, special attention being given to musketry, but it was not possible to hold a camp of exercise. One non-commissioned officer attended the Army Signal School but failed to qualify. The standard of training in the school has been raised and as the battalion affords no facilities to attain the required standard it has been decided to discontinue the training in future. There were 60 boys, 20 girls and 89 recruits on the rolls of the battalion school. As usual the battalion supplied guards to Government House at Dacca and at Darjeeling.

Emigration.

(Report on Inland Emigration.)

37. The new Tea Districts Emigrant Labour Act, XXII of 1932, came into force with effect from the 1st October 1933, in place of the Assam Labour and Emigration Act, VI of 1901, which was repealed thereby. The period 1st July to 30th September 1933, during which the Assam Labour and Emigration Act remained operative was covered by a subsidiary report of the Assam Labour Board. It has, therefore, been decided by the Government of India that the provincial reports for the working of the Assam Labour and Emigration Act, VI of 1901, for that period should not be prepared. Hence no report for the above period, which falls during the year under review, was prepared by the Local Government so far as Inland Emigration to the Labour Districts of Assam, Cachar and Sylhet is concerned. It has, however, been proposed by the Government of India that the report on

Inland Emigration under the new Tea Districts Emigrant Labour Act should, in future, be for the year beginning on the 1st October and ending on the 30th September and that there should be a single consolidated report to be compiled by the Controller of Emigrant Labour and the various provincial reports should be abolished. The question of the preparation of this report, together with the form and scope of the report, is still under the consideration of the Government of India.

[Report on the working of the Indian Emigration Act, VII of 1922, and the rules framed threunder, for the year ending 31st December 1933.]

Foreign Emigration.

38. There was no emigration of skilled or unskilled labour from the Presidency of Bengal to countries overseas during the year under review.

Repatriation to India.

39. During the year a total number of 426 repatriates embarked from the Union of South Africa and the colonies of Fiji and Mauritius to return to India, as against 1,375 in the previous year. Of this number, one died on the voyage among the repatriates from the Union of South Africa on board the M.V. "Luxmi" as against fifteen deaths in the previous year and 425 disembarked. The percentage of death during the year decreased to ·23 from 1·09 per cent. in the previous year. The cause of death of the repatriate stated above is not known as the Medical Officer in charge of the M.V. "Luxmi" did not make a note of it in the ship's nominal roll of the returning emigrants. The general health of the returning emigrants during the voyage was good and no infectious disease occurred amongst them. There were, however, among the repatriates 20 lepers, all from Fiji, as against 51 lepers, 42 from Fiji and 9 from British Guiana last year.

Pilgrim Department.

[Annual Report of the Pilgrim Department, Bengal 1933.]

40. After lengthy correspondence, Messrs Turner, Morrison and Company announced in October 1932 that the S.S. "Alavi" with accommodation for 18 first class, 20 second class and 1,120 third class passengers, would sail from Calcutta with pilgrims for the Hedjaz early in March 1933. The date of sailing along with the steamer fares and other necessary information regarding the 1933 pilgrimage were communicated to all mufassal Haj Committees in the province. A pamphlet in Bengali containing all particulars, including a detailed list of probable expenditure by a pilgrim, was prepared by the Protector of Pilgrims and copies were

widely distributed by Government through District and Subdivisional Officers. At the instance of Government and under the direct supervision of the Hon'ble Member (Haj) the Protector of Pilgrims further prepared a Haj Guide Book in Bengali containing detailed information about the pilgrimage, including a chapter on the rites and customs of performing haj.

41. On arrival in Calcutta intending pilgrims were met and escorted to musafirkhanas and all possible assistance given. As in previous years all pilgrims were vaccinated against smallpox and inoculated against cholera before the embarkation. Female pilgrims were vaccinated and inoculated by a lady doctor especially employed for the purpose. Endeavours were made to check the activities of unlicenesd and undesirable muallims. In this connection the provisions of the Hedjaz Pilgrims (Muallims) Bill are under consideration by Government. The ship eventually sailed on the 2nd March with 297 pilgrims on board, including 45 women and 2 children. From the statistics obtained by the Protector of Pilgrims, it appears that an aggregate of 575 Bengal pilgrims sailed for the 1933 haj from different ports in India, of whom slightly over half sailed from Calcutta. Further propaganda to popularise embarkation from Calcutta is necessary. The majority of mufassal pilgrims came to Calcutta without having obtained passes from their districts, and these had to be issued by the department. The deposit system for return tickets was insisted upon by the department, as being more advantageous to pilgrims. The term of the Bengal Haj Committee for 1932 was extended up to the 31st December 1933, and early in January 1934 a Port Haj Committee was constituted in Calcutta under the Port Haj Committees Act, 1932. On the 22nd February 1933 S.S."Alavi" sailed from Calcutta for the Hedjaz with 286 pilgrims on board. As more satisfactory arrangements for the comfort and health of pilgrims can be made from Calcutta it is the policy of Government to encourage intending pilgrims from Bengal to embark from Calcutta rather than from Bombay or any other port in India.

CHAPTER II.

Police and Jails.

Police Administration in Bengal.

[Report on the Police Administration of the Bengal Presidency for the year 1933.

Civil police: Recruitment and health of the force.

42. It is satisfactory to note that no difficulty was experienced in recruiting men of a satisfactory type during the year. The number of constables recruited was 1,532 against 1,880 in 1932. There was an appreciable decrease in the number of "discharge" from the force, which fell from 215 to 152. This indicates that a better type of men is now being attracted to the force. Admissions to hospital fell from 16,071 to 15,044 though the figure was still high in comparison with the figures of previous years. The permanent sanctioned strength fell from 24,384 to 24,213 and the number actually employed at the close of the year was 23,822. The reductions were mainly due to the abolition of the Detective Departments in certain districts and in the Railway Police, and the abolition of three thanas. The temporary force entertained during the year consisted of 8 Superintendents of Police, 14 Deputy Superintendents of Police, 75 inspectors, 213 sub-inspectors, 11 sergeants, 371 assistant sub-inspectors, 236 head constables, and 2,285 constables.

The number of constables recruited was 1,532 (including 555 local men) as against 1,880 in 1932. Of these 1,058 or 69·1 per cent. were Hindus and other castes and 474 or 30·9 per cent. Muhammadans. The increased rates of pay coupled with the economic depression rendered recruitment easier. Taking the ranks of inspector, sub-inspector and sergeant together, the proportion of Hindus was 60·4 per cent., of Muhammadans 34·8 per cent., of Europeans 2·5 per cent., and of other communities 2·3 per cent. Casualties were 1,290 against 1,289 in the previous year.

Discipline.

43. It is satisfactory that the number of officers and men punished judicially and departmentally decreased from 42 and 8,569 respectively to 37 and 7,957. The number of complaints instituted against the police by private individuals was 242 against 221 in 1932. It is significant that out of the 210 such cases disposed of during the year, 114 ended in dismissal, 80 in acquittal or discharge and only 16 in conviction. Altogether

13,725 officers and men received rewards, good service marks and commendations during the year for successful investigation and detection of crime and arrest of absconders and notorious criminals. A remarkable and most satisfactory feature of the year's working is that the amount distributed to members of the public for assistance rendered in the prevention and detection of crime rose by Rs. 5,890 to Rs. 28,252 as compared with Rs. 22,362 distributed in the previous year.

Crime statistics.

44. There was a decrease in the number of true cognizable cases from 71,481 to 67,666, while the number of non-cognizable cases increased from 119,180 to 124,248. The increase in non-cognizable cases was mainly due to a larger number of prosecutions under the Motor Vehicles and other minor Acts. The number of true cases of serious crime showed a decline from 46,704 to 43,633. The decline was particularly noticeable in dacoity, burglary and theft cases, which fell from 1,852, 28,464 and 12,947 respectively to 1,518, 26,037 and 12,436. In dacoity cases the largest decrease was in the districts of Mymensingh, Dacca, Bakarganj, Pabna and Bogra, being 66, 43, 40, 31 and 29 cases less respectively than in the previous year. The decrease in serious crime is attributed to better supervision over criminal gangs and more intensive patrol in criminal areas. This was possible because civil disobedience was less intense and officers and men were able to pay more attention to ordinary crime. The percentage of convictions to the total number of true cases rose from 7·6 and 15·01 in the two previous years to 19·1. This again was doubtless due to the improved standard of investigation and increased scrutiny by supervising officers. Another noticeable feature in this connection was that bhadralogs took part in 28 dacoity cases reported from 15 districts. This is perhaps an indication of the extent to which the morale of that class has been undermined by subversive influences.

45. It is deplorable that offences against women coming under sections 366 and 354 of the Indian Penal Code again show an increase. There were 52 cases more compared with the figure of the previous year, or an increase of 7·5 per cent. The increase reported in 1932 as compared with 1931 was 94 or 15·7 per cent., so that though the position is far from satisfactory the rate of increase has declined. This increase was not by any means universal and was confined to 16 districts, particularly Rajshahi, Howrah and Tippera, and there is some satisfaction in the fact that other districts, particularly Dacca, Mymensingh and Midnapore, showed a decline. In 1932, Burdwan, Nadia and Hooghly were the worst offenders. The matter is one which continues to engage the attention of Government, and the question whether

the Whipping Act of 1909 should not be amended so as to make persons convicted of offences against women liable to the punishment of whipping is now under examination. The attention of local officers will be drawn to the necessity of putting down the evil in those districts where the number of cases shows an increase. The salutary effect of the amendment by Act No. XXI of 1932 of section 526 of the Criminal Procedure Code, the frequent misuse of which as a device for the obstruction of trials had for long been a feature of the judicial administration, was felt during the year under report. This section was resorted to in only 33 cases against 76, 106 and 195 in the three previous years.

Working of the rural police.

46. The total number of dafadars and chaukidars was 76,311 against 76,733 and the cost of their maintenance Rs. 55,95,790 against Rs. 56,85,481 in the previous year. The general working of the rural police during the year calls for no special comment, but good work on the part of individual members of the force in arresting dacoits and burglars and in other duties was not wanting. Such meritorious service was recognised by the grant of rewards amounting to Rs. 44,738 during the year: the percentage of those rewarded being 19·4 against 18·9 in the previous year. In Dacca a chaukidar was given a reward of Rs. 50 in connection with the arrest of a political offender. A gratuity of Rs. 100 was granted to the widow of a dafadar of Gournadi police-station in the district of Bakarganj who was killed in offering resistance to political dacoits. It is gratifying to note that there has been an improvement, if a slight one, in co-operation between the Presidents of union boards and the police.

Revolutionary crime.

47. Excluding cases that occurred within the jurisdiction of the Calcutta Police, there were 41 outrages and other crimes committed in Bengal by terrorists against 93 in the previous year. The decrease was due to the vigorous drive against known absconders, the success of the police in seizure of arms and explosives and sustained action under the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Act. As in previous years many crimes were prevented by the internment of persons who were known to be planning them. The crimes committed by terrorists included three murders (to which should be added the murder of M. Quin, the Commissioner of Police, Chandernagore), two murderous assaults, two shooting affrays, nineteen dacoities, in ten of which firearms were used, two attempted dacoities, seven robberies, in four of which firearms were used, three attempted robberies and two bomb explosions. The assassination was that of Mr. Burge, District Magistrate, Midnapore, killed, unsuspecting and unarmed, as he was about to take part in a football match between two local teams. The actual assassins were shot by Mr. Burge's

guards, but investigation enabled a conspiracy case to be instituted as a consequence of which three persons were sentenced to death and five to transportation for life by a Special Tribunal. The most conspicuous success of the year against the terrorists was the arrest, not without resistance, at Gairala in the district of Chittagong of Surjya Kumar Sen, the leading absconder of the Chittagong Armoury Raid Case, and a fugitive from justice for nearly three years. Three months later a combined civil and military force threw a cordon round a house at Gohira in the same district, where several absconders had taken shelter, and after an exchange of shots, in which two of the absconders were shot dead, one injured, and another arrested, seven persons surrendered, of whom the most notable were Kalpana Datta and Tarakeswar Dastidar, an absconder in the Chittagong Armoury Raid Case. Surja Kumar Sen and Tarakeswar Dastidar have since been sentenced to death and Kalpana Datta to transportation for life by a Special Tribunal. The biggest dacoity in the year was that committed on the 28th October at Hili railway station on the main line between Calcutta and Darjeeling in which 14 or 15 bhadralogs held up the entire station staff and decamped with the loot after firing at and injuring two mail van peons (one of whom succumbed later) and four coolies. The arrest of several of the raiders was effected by a zamindar with the help of other members of the public and chaukidars, as the result of clever strategy on the part of a constable. Some of the loot and also a loaded revolver, a loaded automatic pistol, a gun, some cartridges and three daggers were recovered from them. The part taken in this case by Hindu members of the public in bringing terrorist offenders to justice is proof of an increasing determination to fight terrorism. Thirteen persons implicated in the case were arrested, all of whom were convicted by a Special Tribunal.

Intelligence Branch and Military Intelligence Officers.

48. The loyalty, courage and devotion to duty displayed by all ranks of the Intelligence Branch during the year were highly appreciated. Government will not hesitate to use all the resources necessary and available to support the Intelligence Branch in the struggle with the sinister movement which it is their special duty to fight.

49. The Military Intelligence Officers appointed soon after the military garrison of the province was augmented in 1932 to certain districts to act as liaison officers between the troops and the civil authorities also deserve a special word of praise for the good work they have done, notably in Chittagong, where operations of a special kind were needed to round up the absconders of the Armoury Raid Case and to deprive the terrorists of the support they had so long received from certain sections of the public.

General.

50. The Watch and Ward Committees of Chittagong rendered valuable work. Started during the year, they now consist of a body of roughly 20,000 persons. They rendered valuable help to the police not only in dealing with ordinary crime but also in exercising check on the free movement of terrorists.

Police Administration in Calcutta.

[The report on the Police Administration in the Town of Calcutta and its suburbs for the year 1933.]

Strength.

51. The sanctioned strength of the Calcutta Police at the close of the year was 5,653, excluding a temporary force of 245. The strength of the force thus worked out at 183·5 men per square mile or one to every 211 inhabitants. The number of constables enlisted during the year was 89 as against 257 in the previous year. Of these, 42 were Hindus and 47 Muhammadans. The improvement in the class of applicants which has been noticed of recent years continued.

Health.

52. The general health of the force showed an improvement during the year. The daily percentage of men absent from duty on account of sickness did indeed increase from 1·58 in the previous year to 1·84, but this was due to longer detention of certain classes of cases in order to effect a complete cure before discharge. It is expected that the steps taken to educate the force in hygiene by the distribution of leaflets and by the exhibition of a series of hygienic and educational films in the Calcutta Police Training School will ultimately prove useful in improving the general health of the force.

Discipline.

53. It is gratifying to note the appreciable decrease in the number of punishments inflicted on members of the force both judicially and departmentally as compared with the figures of the previous years.

The Calcutta Police Ambulance Corps.

54. The formation of this Corps, membership of which is voluntary, has provided opportunities to the members of the Calcutta Police, who as recruits have all received instruction in First Aid, to meet together and keep up their proficiency in ambulance work. It is gratifying to note that an improvement in First Aid work has resulted and has been favourably commented on by the hospital authorities, while the head of the St. John Ambulance Association in India has pronounced the Calcutta Police to possess the smartest and most efficient Ambulance Brigade units in India.

Crime statistics.

55. There was an increase in the total number of cognizable cases reported to the police. But the increase, as in the previous year, related to offences other than offences under the Indian Penal Code, the number of cases under the Calcutta Hackney-Carriage Act and the Calcutta and Suburban Police Acts alone having risen by nearly 3,900 and 3,260, respectively. The number of dacoity, robbery, burglary and theft cases decreased, being 7, 19, 432 and 2,908, respectively, against 10, 24, 438 and 2,937 of the previous year. Of the cases reported to the police, 99·08 per cent. were sent up for trial and 92·6 per cent. of the cases tried ended in conviction. The number of non-cognizable cases also showed an appreciable decline. The control of crime in Calcutta during the year, therefore, was satisfactory.

Revolutionary crime.

56. The year under review was one of notable success against terrorist organisations. The combined efforts of the Special Branch of the Calcutta Police and the Intelligence Branch of the Bengal Police, led to the unearthing of a terrorist conspiracy of far-reaching importance with branches in Bengal, Punjab, Madras, United Provinces, Bihar and Burma. The quantity of unlicensed firearms and explosives seized during the year, was unprecedented. To take a few instances only, in the course of one police search 78 packets of dynamite were found in possession of a young woman; and in another, 173 sticks of dynamite, 3 revolvers and 194 live cartridges. At a third search, the police were conducted to a small arsenal in which were stored, among other offensive articles, no fewer than 7 revolvers, a large quantity of ammunition for revolvers, pistols and rifles, a bullet-moulding machine, parts of revolvers and pistols, 3 grenades, 2 bombs, a bomb-making mould, a bundle of chemical formulæ, a packet of dynamite and lastly 3 blocks for forging hundred-rupee Government notes. The prominent part taken by women in terrorist conspiracies was again illustrated by the seizure of a large quantity of dynamite from a woman as mentioned above and by the recovery of 2 revolvers and 2 automatic pistols and 53 rounds of ammunition from the custody of a girl student in a local college. The loyalty, courage and devotion to duty displayed by all ranks of the force, particularly of the Special Branch in the drive against terrorism were fully appreciated. It reflects great credit on the officers and men who effected the capture of the 3 notorious terrorist leaders at Cornwallis Street on the 22nd May 1933 for the pluck and resourcefulness they displayed in the face of desperate armed resistance.

Smuggling of arms.

57. One of the main sources of supply of firearms of the terrorists in recent years has been the seamen smugglers working through the port of Calcutta. The special detective staff of the

Port Police, which had been sanctioned mainly for the purpose of suppressing this nefarious trade, was responsible for the recovery of 11 revolvers, 5 pistols and 332 cartridges during the year, and for the arrest of terrorists and revolutionaries attempting to procure unlicensed arms and ammunition. It is satisfactory to note the conspicuous service rendered by this force, a service which is of vital importance in denying to the terrorist organisation the arms which, there is reason to believe, they are finding it more and more difficult to obtain.

Traffic.

58. There was an increase in receipts on account of registration of vehicles and licensing of drivers under the Motor Vehicles Act, the amount collected being Rs. 3,06,694 which is better by Rs. 36,205 than the figure of 1932, and Rs. 3,000 better than 1931, though still some Rs. 7,000 below the level of 1930. The improvement no doubt indicates an improvement in trade conditions. An increase in receipts from fees under the Calcutta Hackney-Carriage Act is attributed to the growing popularity of rickshaws as a means of conveyance. The figures for street accidents, though sufficiently heavy, showed a reduction during the year. The number of killed and injured was 1,997 as against 2,039 in 1932 and 2,315 in 1931.

Jails Department.

[Report on the Administration of the Jails Department of the Presidency of Bengal for the year 1933.]

Population.

59. During 1933 the population of civil disobedience prisoners fell from 1,202 at the beginning to 371 at the end of the year. The decrease of civil disobedience prisoners was not accompanied by any corresponding decrease of ordinary prisoners with the result that the pressure on the jail accommodation was not relieved as much as might have been expected. The average daily strength during the year was 21,405·39 against 22,618·23 in the previous year, so that it was again nearly 50 per cent. in excess of the normal figure before the civil disobedience movement of 1930 began. The prison population at the end of the year was actually greater than at the corresponding period of the previous year, being 20,659 against 20,497. Economic conditions no doubt contributed in a large measure to this result, but the spirit of lawlessness aroused by the civil disobedience movement must be held also to have had its effect. It was, therefore, possible to close only one of the five special jails, and comparatively little saving could be effected in the cost of guarding and maintaining

prisoners. The cost during the year was, it is true, over 2½ lakhs of rupees less than in the previous year, but almost the whole of this is accounted for by the fall of expenditure on dietary charges due to the drop in food prices.

Terrorist prisoners.

60. The number of terrorist convicts, which at the beginning of the year was 225, stood at its close at 438, and this after 88 had been removed to the Andamans. The total number of such convicts admitted to prison during the year was no less than 741, an unwelcome reminder of the grip that terrorism has gained on the youth of the country. The increase in this dangerous class of prisoner has greatly complicated jail administration, for in order to prevent the contamination of other prisoners, and the hatching of plots to commit further outrages, it is essential that the terrorist convicts should be segregated not only from ordinary prisoners (especially adolescents), but also from one another during those hours in which they are not engaged in labour. The question of providing more cellular accommodation, which has always been inadequate, has therefore become a matter of urgency. During the year under review it was found necessary to construct 20 extra cells in one of the central jails for the segregation of terrorist prisoners at a cost of Rs. 19,700 and the department has since been compelled to take up the question of providing additional cellular accommodation in two other central jails. During the year under review 88 terrorist prisoners were transported to the cellular jail at Port Blair, three of whom were subsequently repatriated on medical grounds. The reopening of this jail has eased the question of guarding and segregating terrorist prisoners in Bengal jails, but has by no means solved the problem, as many terrorist prisoners are ineligible for transportation, either because their sentences are of shorter duration than five years or for medical reasons.

Juvenile and adolescent offenders.

61. The cessation of civil disobedience led to a large fall in the number of juvenile and adolescent prisoners admitted to jail during the year, the percentage of prisoners under 16 having dropped from 0·84 to 0·35, of prisoners between 16 and 18 from 7·42 to 4·23, and of prisoners between 19 and 21 from 12·76 to 9·58.

Female prisoners.

62. There was also a substantial decrease in the number of female prisoners, though the number of admissions was still double the normal figure.

Borstal school.

63. Although the number of juvenile prisoners is still abnormally high, the population of the Borstal School, Bankura, has shown a steady decline since 1930, the inmates numbering only 171 at the end of 1933 as compared with 373 at the end of 1930.

It is difficult to resist the conclusion that Magistrates are sentencing boys to short terms of imprisonment and subjecting them to the obvious risks of a prison environment instead of giving them the opportunity of going through the useful and reformative training afforded by the Borstal system. It is possible that Magistrates are apt, through ignorance of the nature and purpose of detention in the Borstal School—the minimum period of which is 2 years—, to think of it in terms of imprisonment in a jail. This is of course a serious error, for there is no comparison between the two forms of detention, and it should be remembered that the essence of the Borstal system is to give a training of permanent value which cannot be given in a short period, and that the Borstal School of Bankura is essentially a school from which the prison atmosphere is absent, and of which the chief object is to instil into the boys a spirit of honour, self-respect and sportsmanship.

Advisory Boards.

64. The Advisory Boards appointed to report on the premature release of certain classes of non-habitual prisoners examined the records of no less than 403 cases during the year. They were able to recommend the release of 294 well-behaved prisoners against 164 in the previous year, and Government accepted the recommendations of the Boards in 293 cases. The system of examining the records of prisoners with a view to the premature release of those who have shown signs of reform was introduced ten years ago as an experimental measure and has fully justified expectations. It has exercised a healthy influence on the conduct of prisoners and led to appreciable economy in jail administration.

Long detention of under-trials.

65. During the year under review there was an encouraging fall in the period of detention of undertrial prisoners, particularly in sessions case, the average period of detention being 47·47 days in sessions cases, and 22·62 days in other cases, against 56·47 and 23·02, respectively, in the previous year.

Short-term sentences.

66. The number of short-term sentences of less than one month on the other hand increased from 9,166 in 1932 to no less than 10,714 in 1933, and is now more than 60 per cent. higher than the number imposed in 1929. Such sentences are not deterrent, and cannot be reformative. Their only effect is in fact to bring the chance offender into contact with criminals whose influence may well lead the victim to embark on a career of crime. Inspecting officers have been directed to pay special attention to this point during their inspections of Magistrates' Courts.

Punishment of warders.

67. There was a substantial fall in the number of punishments inflicted upon warders during the year, and a satisfactory indication as to the state of discipline is to be found in the fact

that only 49 warders were dismissed as against 99 in the previous year. During recent years the conditions of service of the warder staff have been improved by an increase in pay and the provision of leave and training reserves, and these improvements have done much to add to the contentment of the force. It is recognised, however, that much remains to be done, one of the most urgent needs being the provision of married quarters, a project which has been held up for a number of years for want of funds.

Offences by convicts.

68. The total number of offences committed by convicts during the year decreased by 2,492 or 10 per cent. as compared with the previous year, there being an appreciable decline under "offences relating to work" and "all other breaches of discipline," but a slight rise under "prohibited articles" and "assaults, mutinies and escapes."

Jail manufacture.

69. The continued slump in trade had its effect on the jail manufactory departments though to a less extent than in the two previous years. It is satisfactory that the total net earnings for the year exceeded those for the year 1932 by over Rs. 20,000 and that the removal of the Jail Depot from Free School Street to Writers' Buildings during the year, as recommended by the Retrenchment Committee, resulted in a net profit of Rs. 4,051 against a net loss of Rs. 659 in the previous year.

Health and mortality.

70. The health of the jail population remained satisfactory throughout the year. There was a fall of 5·75 per mille in the number of sick, while the death rate was 10·8 per mille against 10·52 of the previous year. The consistency with which the death and sick rates have been maintained at such low figures despite a 50 per cent. increase in the jail population is a testimony to the care and attention paid to the health of prisoners, and the medical staff of the department are to be congratulated on the way in which they have not only maintained but improved the standard of health under the trying conditions of recent years.

Reforms.

71. Financial stringency again stood in the way of effect being given to numerous schemes which have been drawn up during the past few years for improving jail administration. Among these are schemes for relieving congestion by the building of another central jail, for providing more cellular accommodation, and married quarters for warders and for the introduction of a scheme of primary education for adolescents in central jails. It is most regrettable that these schemes have had to be held up and it is to be hoped that some progress will be possible in the near future.

Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Act detenus and Regulation III prisoners.

Number.

72. The number of persons dealt with under the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1930, since the 19th April 1930 and Regulation III of 1818, was 2,381 at the beginning of January 1934, which rose to 3,151 at the end of December 1934. A statement is given below showing the number of persons, month by month, who are in various forms of restraint under the Act. The number of persons that have died since April 1930 is 15, while the figure for the year under review is 8.

Bashas.

73. The number of bashas at the beginning of the year was 330 while 350 were constructed in the year. There were 251 persons in village domicile in January 1934, excluding those in home domicile, while the number rose to 659 in December 1934.

Reduction of allowance of detenus.

74. Originally the domiciliary allowance of the detenus used to range from Rs. 30 to Rs. 35 per month, but as these amounts were considered excessive in many cases and enabled the detenus to live in a degree of comfort to which they have never been accustomed and which was apt to cause misunderstanding with regard to their position as internees. Government reviewed these allowances in September and October 1934 and reduced the scale generally from Rs. 30—35 to Rs. 25—30. The detenus in various camps and jails were in receipt of a monthly allowance of Rs. 15, but as Government were satisfied that the allowance was capable of further reduction without interference with the legitimate needs of the detenus, this allowance was reduced to Rs. 10 per mensem with effect from 1st June 1934.

Proposal for educative and reformative instructions in the Berhampore camp.

75. In June 1932, the late Sir William Prentice noted that Government attached great importance to their treatment of detenus being reformative as well as preventive and that the desire of Government was to convert the Berhampore Detention Camp into a camp for the less confirmed terrorists where educative and reformative work might be done with a view to weaning some of them from terrorism, or if that were not successful, at any rate to occupy their time and give them training in something useful so that on release they might be better fitted to earn their livelihood than they were when arrested.

76. With this object in view, at first classes in First Aid and Hygiene conducted by the camp medical staff were started in July 1932, but as the classes were very poorly attended, they were discontinued before very much had been done. In September

1932, arrangements were made for giving lectures in English, but these too came to an end after two months, as the detenus refused to stand up when the Commandant entered the class room, and for reasons of discipline, the classes were closed. Subsequently an expensive experiment was attempted. Three classes of forty students in each were opened for giving instructions in book-keeping, shorthand and typing, under two lecturers and one instructor, but as the detenus refused to abide by the rules framed, the entire scheme had to be withdrawn, and Government suffered a loss of some thousands of rupees.

77 *Statement of persons dealt with under the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1933, and Regulation III of 1818 for the year 1934.*

	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.
In Jail under section 4(3)	92	107	131	98	62	92	140	118	76	75	54	39
Under section2(1) in jails and camps	1,446	1,498	1,534	1,602	1,506	1,480	1,470	1,486	1,583	1,579	1,574	1,589
In home domicile	101	98	96	107	136	142	146	148	147	145	154	159
In village domicile	251	251	262	271	440	494	547	584	575	616	648	659
Absconding from camps, V. D., etc.	3	4	4	5	3	3	3	5	5	4	3	3
Against whom orders under section 2(1) have issued but not served as they are evading arrest.	..	..	..	4	3	7	11	20	17	17	19	20
Released after arrest under section 4(3)	178	178	179	181	174	173	175	178	179	179	179	181
Released under section 10(1) unconditionally or of cases in which orders are suspended.	56	57	58	60	60	67	70	72	67	72	73	75
Released under section 10(1) on conditions	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
Under section 2(1) (a), (b), (c)	169	172	175	179	195	194	193	199	211	214	223	228
Released under section 2(1) (a), (b), (c) and confined to particular areas.	6	6	6	6	5	5	5	8	7	7	7	7
Under section 2(1)(b)	2	..	..	..	..	1	3	3	3	3	3	3
Under section 2 (1) (c)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	..	..	..	..
Under section 2 (1) (a), (b), (c) and (d)	..	1	1	4	2	3	3	..	..	..	..	..
Externed from Bengal	27	27	29	32	38	42	44	43	43	43	44	44
Confined to certain areas with their relatives	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18
Placed in a Leper Asylum in Bengal	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
Externed from or confined to certain areas in Bengal ..	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Undergoing imprisonment under section 6 of the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1930.	28	34	32	34	31	27	32	36	37	42	41	40

Undergoing imprisonment under sections of the Indian Penal Code and other Acts.	5	7	6	6	10	10	9	9	11	11	13	16
Under trial under sections of the Indian Penal Code and orders suspended.	15	13	13	13	6	7	8	8	8	6	6	6
Of cases in which order under section 2(*1*) allowed to lapse	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Deaths	7	9	9	9	10	11	11	13	13	13	14	15
Under Regulation III of 1818	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18
Under Regulation III released	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1
Under Regulation III deaths	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Placed in Jadavpur Tuberculosis Hospital	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	1
Under trial under section 6 to the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1930.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	13	15	16	17
Total ..	2,438	2,513	2,586	2,662	2,732	2,809	2,922	2,991	3,046	3,092	3,122	3,151

*Absconded.

Chemical Examiner's Department.

[Report of the Chemical Examiner for the year 1933.]

Analytical cases.

78. During the year under review 7,288 articles were examined in this department as against 8,828 in the previous year, showing a decrease of 1,590 articles. In the General Analytical Department (including excise) the number of examinations made was 1,595 as compared with 2,888 of the preceding year, showing a decrease of 1,293 articles which was noticed mainly under the head cocaine, opium, etc., from the Excise Department, Bengal and Assam: 500 of these cases were cases of examination of explosives.

Medico-legal cases.

79. During the period under review 2,156 medico-legal cases were referred to the department as against 2,249 in the year 1932. The total number of cases detected during the year was 1,219, i.e., 56·53 per cent. as compared with 54·51 in 1932. The total number of medico-legal articles examined was 5,643 as against 5,940 in 1932, showing a decrease of 297 articles. The number of human viscera examined in connection with poisoning and abortion cases was 797 as against 784 in 1932, thus showing an increase of 13 viscera. In addition to human viscera 144 human tissues were examined as compared with 124 in the previous year.

80. Two interesting features were noticed in the year under report, viz., (1) a sudden increase in the number of animals viscera examined in connection with poisoning cases and (2) a noticeable decrease in the number of stain cases examined in the department. The number of animals viscera sent for examination to the department had been showing a rapid decrease for the past few years, owing probably to the marked fall in the price of raw hides and better control over the activities of the cattle poisoners. But in the year under report the number suddenly rose to 85 as compared with 53 in the previous year. The number of stain cases on the other hand, which had been showing a marked increase for the last few years, fell to 1,061 as against 1,158 in 1932, thus showing a decrease of 97 cases.

CHAPTER III.

Criminal and Civil Justice.

Civil Justice.

[Report on the Administration of Civil Justice in the Presidency of Bengal during the year 1933.]

Judicial staff.

81. The permanent civil judicial staff employed in the Presidency during 1933 consisted of 15 High Court Judges, 21 District Judges, 14 Additional District Judges, a Chief Judge and six Judges of the Presidency Small Cause Court, two Provincial Small Cause Court Judges who exercised also the powers of a Subordinate Judge, 44 Subordinate Judges and 235 Munsifs. In addition, four executive officers exercised the powers of a Subordinate Judge or Small Cause Court Judge and two the powers of a Munsif.

82. The following changes in the personnel of the High Court took place during the year:—

The late the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Charu Chunder Ghose, KT., officiated as Chief Justice from the 27th March till the 31st August, *vice* the Hon'ble Sir G. C. Rankin, KT., Chief Justice, on leave. Mr. C. Bartley, I.C.S., acted as a Judge from the 1st April till the 31st August, *vice* the late Sir Charu Chunder Ghose, and again from the 13th November till the end of the year, *vice* the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sarat Kumar Ghose, on leave. Mr. G. D. McNair, Barrister-at-law, acted as a Judge from the 28th April till the 31st August, *vice* the Hon'ble Mr. Justice H. G. Pearson, KT., on leave, and again from the 16th November till the end of the year, *vice* the late Sir Charu Chunder Ghose, on leave. Rai Surendra Nath Guha Bahadur continued to act as an Additional Judge till the 12th November and was confirmed as a Judge with effect from the 13th November, *vice* the Hon'ble Mr. Justice H. G. Pearson, KT., resigned. Mr. Khagendra Chandra Nag, M.B.E., Barrister-at-law, and Mr. A. G. R. Henderson, I.C.S., acted as Additional Judges from the 3rd April till the 31st August. Mr. Nasim Ali, M.A., B.L., acted as an Additional Judge from the 13th November till the end of the year, *vice* the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Surendra Nath Guha, Rai Bahadur, confirmed. Mr. Asoke Kumar Roy, Barrister-at-law, acted as a Judge from the 24th November till the end of the year, *vice* the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Torick Ameer Ali, on leave.

83. The following statement shows the number of temporary appointments sanctioned for subordinate courts during the year:—

District.	Number of appointment.	Period.
(1) Additional Judges.		
Bakarganj ..	1	Throughout the year exclusive of the civil court vacation.
Ditto ..	1	From 15th May till the end of the year, exclusive of the civil court vacation.
Bogra ..	1	From 1st January till 17th July.
Jalpaiguri ..	1	From 20th February till 4th April.
Hooghly ..	1	From 23rd February till 13th May.
Howrah ..	1	From 19th July to 22nd December, exclusive of the civil court vacation.
Khulna ..	1	From 1st February till 18th September and again from 30th October till the end of the year.
Mymensingh ..	1	Throughout the year, exclusive of the civil court vacation.
Mymensingh ..	1	From 1st January till 28th February.
Ditto ..	1	Ditto.
Ditto ..	1	From 1st January till 19th June.
Ditto ..	1	From 1st January till 29th July.
Nadia ..	1	From 1st January till 28th February.
Pabna ..	1	Ditto.
Rajshahi ..	1	From 1st January till 28th August.
24-Parganas ..	1	Throughout the year, exclusive of the civil court vacation.
Ditto ..	1	From 23rd October till the end of the year.
(2) Subordinate Judges.		
Asansol ..	1	Throughout the year, exclusive of the civil court vacation.
Birbhum ..	1	Ditto.
Khulna ..	1	Ditto.
Nadia ..	1	Ditto.
Noakhali ..	1	Ditto.
Howrah ..	1	Ditto.
Malda ..	1	Ditto.
24-Parganas ..	2	Ditto.
Chittagong ..	1	Ditto.
Ditto ..	1	From 5th April to 2nd May.
Burdwan ..	1	From 1st January till 28th February.
Murshidabad ..	1	Ditto.
Hooghly ..	1	From 1st January till 18th September.
(3) Munsifs.		
Chittagong ..	2	Throughout the year, exclusive of the civil court vacation.
Ditto ..	1	From 1st January till 18th September.

The Seventh Bench of the Court of Small Causes, Calcutta, remained vacant throughout the year.

ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

I.—High Court.

Original suits for disposal.

84. The total number of civil suits for disposal on the Original Side of the High Court in 1933 was 4,708 against 4,570 in the previous year.

Of 2,551 suits instituted during 1933, 1,636 were for money or moveable property, 163 were for immovable property and 285 were moregage suits.

The value of suits for specific money claims was Rs. 17,84,34,379 as compared with Rs. 3,96,14,416 in the previous year.

Original suits disposed of.

85. The number of suits decided in 1933 was 2,908. The number left undisposed of at the end of the year was 1,800. The number pending at the close of the year was less than the number pending at the close of the previous year by 342. There were 342 suits pending over one year, showing a decrease of 232 on the figures of the previous year.

Of the suits decided, 657 were disposed of without trial, 1,028 were disposed of *ex parte*, 572 were disposed of by compromise, 628 were disposed of after full trial and 23 were disposal of by reference to arbitration.

Prize cases.

86. One case against a ship and one claim against the cargo were pending from the previous year. No action was taken during the year and the position of the ship and the cargo remained unchanged at the close of the year.

Cases under the extraordinary jurisdiction.

87. Twelve suits from the previous year were pending in the High Court in its extraordinary original civil jurisdiction, and five suits were transferred to it during the year. None having been disposed of during the year, 17 remained pending at its close.

Probates, letters of administration and succession certificates.

88. At the commencement of the year 76 applications for probates, letters of administration and succession certificates were pending and 593 fresh applications were made during the year. Of these, 559 were disposed of and 110 remained pending at its close.

Awards under the Indian Arbitration Act, IX of 1899.

89. The number of awards filed and that of applications made in execution thereof were 54 and 67, respectively.

References to take accounts, etc.

90. The number of references to take accounts, to make inquiries as to estates to be administered or partitioned, as to debts and incumbrances, as to allowances to be made for maintenance,

for inquiries on questions affecting minors in proposed terms of settlement in suits, etc., and to settle conveyances, etc., pending at the commencement of the year was 538. Fresh references were directed by the Court in 515 cases. Of the total, 542 were disposed of by the Registrar, the Master and Official Referee and their assistants. Five hundred and eleven references remained pending at the close of the year.

Conveyances and sureties.

91. During the year, the Registrar inquired into the sufficiency of sureties in 76 cases. The Registrar further inquired into the sufficiency of sureties in 182 matters in which administration bonds were executed.

Appeals from the original jurisdiction.

92. The number of appeals pending from the previous year was 95 and 129 new appeals were preferred to the Appellate Side of the Court. Of the total number, 42 were dismissed for default or otherwise not prosecuted and 96 were decided on merit. Of the latter, the decrees of the Court of first instance were affirmed in 64, modified in six and reversed in 20 cases; six cases were remanded for retrial. Eighty-six appeals remained undecided at the close of the year.

References from the Calcutta Court of Small Causes under section 69 of Act XV of 1882 as amended by Act IV of 1906.

93. At the commencement of the year no such reference was pending and none was made during the year.

References under section 66 of the Indian Income-tax Act, XI of 1922.

94. At the commencement of the year seven such references were pending, and 13 were made to the High Court during the year. Of these, 10 were disposed of during the year and 10 remained pending at its close.

References under section 57 of the Indian Stamp Act, II of 1899.

95. There was one such reference pending at the commencement of the year and one fresh reference was made to the High Court during the year. These references were not disposed of and remained pending at the end of the year.

Application under the Indian Bar Councils Act (XXXVIII) of 1926.

96. There was no such application pending at the commencement of the year and one was made to the High Court during the year. This application was not disposed of and remained pending at the end of the year.

Application under the Court's disciplinary jurisdiction.

97. There was no such application pending at the commencement of the year, and one fresh application was made during the year. This application was not disposed of and remained pending at the close of the year.

98. There was no such application pending at the commencement of the year and two fresh applications were made to the High Court during the year. Both these applications having been disposed of, none remained pending at its close.

Applications under the Indian Press (Emergency Powers) Act, XXIII of 1931.

99. The number of interlocutory applications in Court and in Chambers for the appointment of guardians *ad-litem*, for the appointment of guardians under the Guardians and Wards Act, 1890, for the appointment of receivers, etc., for injunctions, for discovery of documents, for executions, for summonses to witnesses, for special leave to file written statements after time, etc., was 8,970. Of these, 3,826 were disposed of by the Judges either in Court or in Chambers and the remainder (5,144) by the Registrar and the Master.

Interlocutory applications.

100. At the commencement of the year there were applications in respect of 210 companies pending and 27 fresh applications were made to the Court during the year. Of these none was disposed of during the year, and all remained pending at its close. Three hundred and forty-two applications of a miscellaneous character were, however, disposed of during the year.

Applications under the Indian Companies Act, VII of 1913.

101. Thirty-six cases transferred under section 39 of the Presidency Small Cause Courts Act, 1882, were pending at the commencement of the year and three cases were transferred on applications made under that section during the year. Of these 39 cases, 10 were disposed of, and 29 remained pending at the close of the year.

Applications for the transfer of cases from the Calcutta Court of Small Causes.

Twenty-three cases transferred under section 24 of the Code of Civil Procedure were pending at the commencement of the year, and one case was transferred under that section during the year. Of these 24 cases, two were disposed of during the year and 22 cases remained pending at its close.

Two applications under section 115 of the Code of Civil Procedure for calling for records from the Calcutta Court of Small Causes were pending at the commencement of the year and 9 such applications were made during the year. Of the total number, 8 applications were dismissed, in one case the application was withdrawn and two cases remained pending at the close of the year.

102. The number of cases under the old and new Acts pending in the Insolvency Court at the commencement of the year was 163 and 863 respectively, and the number instituted under the new Insolvency Act during the year was 206. Of these 1,232 cases, 213 were disposed of, the adjudication order being set aside

Insolvency cases.

or superseded or the petition being withdrawn or dismissed in 129 and the insolvents obtaining relief in 84 cases and 1,019 cases remained pending at the close of the year. There were also 2,351 applications of a miscellaneous character disposed of during the year.

Duration of sittings.

103. For the hearing of the original suits and applications one Judge sat alone for 14 days, two Judges sat separately but simultaneously for 61 days, three Judges sat separately but simultaneously for 115 days and four Judges sat separately but simultaneously for one day. The Insolvency Court engaged the time of one Judge for 12 days. For the hearing of the appeals from the Original Side, a Bench of one Judge sat alone for two days, a Bench of two Judges sat for 38 days and two Benches of two Judges each sat separately but simultaneously for three days. References under section 66 of the Indian Income-tax Act, XI of 1922, occupied the time of one Special Bench of two Judges for one day and of three Judges for one day.

Appeals to the Privy Council.

104. Three appeals from the Original Side were pending from the previous year, and three appeals were admitted during the year. Of these, two were disposed of by the Privy Council and four remained pending at the close of the year.

Receipts and expenditure.

105. The following statement shows the receipts and expenditure of the High Court on the Original Side during 1933:—

Receipts.	Rs. a. p.
Commission of the Accountant-General	18,856 1 1
Commission on sales by and on security deposits with the Registrar	68,168 14 6
Receiver's commission	89,335 2 7
Other fees realised by means of stamps	7,67,122 4 0
Probates and administration duty	30,73,287 0 0
Fines	400 0 0
Total	40,17,169 6 2

Expenditure.	Rs. a. p.
Salaries of Judges engaged on the Original Side and in respect of appeals from that side	1,81,804 12 11
Establishment	3,69,648 8 9
House allowance	1,500 0 0
Contingencies	73,068 8 3
Total ..	6,26,021 13 11

106. The number of bills taxed during the year was as follows:— Taxing office.

	Rs.
Between party and party	1,024
Between attorney and client	485

The court-fees for taxation during the year amounted to Rs. 39,080. This sum is included in the item "other fees realised by means of stamps" under the head "Receipts."

107. The following figures exhibit the financial results for the last three years, including, under the head "Receipts", the duty realised on the grant of probates, letters of administration and succession certificates and under the head "Expenditure" the salaries of the Judges:— Financial results.

Year.	Receipts.*	Receipts.†	Expenditure.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1931	14,01,458	7,59,758	6,54,422
1932	23,02,460	7,96,028	5,71,849
1933	40,17,169	9,43,882	6,26,021

*Including the duty realised on the grant of probates and letters of administration and succession certificates.

†Excluding the duty realised on the grant of probates and letters of administration and succession certificates.

II.—Civil Courts in the mufassal subordinate to the High Court.

108. In the early hours of the 25th March 1933, the Kutcha court buildings of the Bajitpur Munsifi in the district of Mymensingh, with records, registers, public documents and furniture, etc., were burnt to ashes. Fortunately, the record-room which was situated at some distance from the court houses, was saved. After the destruction of the court houses, the courts and offices were temporarily located in the Bar Library and private houses lent by their owners. A private gentleman of the place, however, offered to construct a pucca building for the Munsifi on approved plan on the site acquired for the purpose at his own cost and rent the same to Government. This offer having been accepted by Government, the building has been constructed and the courts are now being held there. Munsifi destroyed.

109. The number of suits instituted in 1933 was 740,435, being an increase of 85,865 on the figures of the previous year. Original suits instituted.

The increase occurred in the institution of money, rent and title suits to the extent of 8 9, 16;4 and 3;3 per cent., respectively. The number of money suits instituted was 235,375 against 216,061 in 1932.

The total value of suits instituted in 1933 amounted to Rs. 9,43,46,929, showing a decrease of Rs. 15,06,523 on the total for 1932. The decrease is due to the institution of a smaller number of suits valued at over Rs. 1,00,000.

Local distribution.

110. There was an increase in the number of suits instituted in all the districts except 24-Parganas, Nadia and Jessore. The increase was most marked in Mymensingh, Tippera, Faridpur, Noakhali and Dacca. It occurred in all classes of suits. The largest number of suits was instituted in the district of Mymensingh (68,832), where the number of money suits (26,663) was the greatest in the province. In Tippera the institutions were between 50,000 and 60,000. In the districts of 24-Parganas, Dacca, Bakarganj, Rangpur, the institutions were between 40,000 and 50,000. In the districts of Noakhali, Faridpur, Chittagong, Pabna-Bogra, Dinajpur, Midnapore and Rajshahi, the institutions were between 30,000 and 40,000. In respect of rent suits, Mymensingh held the first place with 37,971 institutions and Bakarganj the second place with 34,535. In the districts of Jessore, Nadia, Murshidabad, Hooghly, Burdwan and Khulna, the institutions were between 20,000 and 30,000 and in Birbhum 18,740. Bankura with 13,443 shows the lowest figures.

Nature of suits instituted.

111. The majority of suits instituted were, as usual, for small sums as the following figures show:—

	Suits for money or movables.	Suits under the rent law.	Title and other suits.
Not exceeding—			
Rs. 10	6,140	87,149	1,822
Rs. 50	84,279	237,937	9,258
Rs. 100 ..	63,175	79,417	7,689
Rs. 500	72,064	52,105	18,457
Exceeding Rs. 500 or value not stated	9,717	3,576	7,650
Total ..	235,375	460,184	44,876

In suits for money or movables 38·4 per cent. and in rent suits 70·6 per cent. were for sums of less than Rs. 50.

In suits under the rent law, 96 per cent. were for realisation of arrears of rent. Of the suits classified as title suits, 53·8 per cent. were moregage suits, 28·6 per cent. were for immovable property and 1·2 per cent. were for specific relief.

Number of suits disposed of.

112. In addition to 740,435 suits instituted during the year, there were 168,048 suits pending trial from the previous year, 10,871 were revived and 41,584 were received otherwise, making

a total of 960,938 suits for disposal before the subordinate courts in Bengal in 1933. Excluding transfers, 759,834 were disposed of, showing an increase of 107,723 on the figures of 1932.

Of the total number, 741,249 were disposed of by Munsifs, 12,029 by Subordinate Judges, 6,253 by Small Cause Court Judges and 303 by District and Additional Judges. The figures show an increase in the Courts of the Subordinate Judges and Munsifs and a decrease in those of the District and Additional Judges and the Small Cause Court Judges.

Results of suits decided.

113. Of the suits disposed of, 103,494 were decided without trial, 506,506 *ex parte*, 33,697 on admission of claim, 57,625 on compromise, 58,096 after full trial and 416 on reference to arbitration.

Of the 58,096 suits decided after full trial, 49,959 or 86 per cent. resulted in favour of the plaintiffs, and 8,137 or 14 per cent. in favour of the defendants.

Applications for retrial.

114. The number of applications for an order to set aside an *ex parte* judgment or a judgment on default, preferred during the year, was 15,708. Of these, 7,887 or 52·2 per cent. were successful.

Suits decided by Munsifs.

115. The number of suits disposed of by Munsifs rose from 634,430 to 741,249, an increase of 106,819.

The average number of suits disposed of by each Munsif was 3,598 against 3,094 in 1932. Disposals under the Small Cause Court procedure formed 22·8 per cent. of the total.

The number of suits disposed of by Munsifs after full trial was 54,427 or 7·3 per cent. of the total. The average number of suits decided after full trial by each Munsif was 264 against 253 in 1932. The percentage of suits disposed of after full trial by Munsifs under the ordinary procedure was 7·4 and under the Small Cause Court procedure 6·9.

The figures are:—

Under the ordinary procedure—	
Contested	42,674
Uncontested	529,232
Under Small Cause Court procedure—	
Contested	11,753
Uncontested	157,590
Total ..	741,249

The number of suits decided by Munsifs under the ordinary procedure shows an increase of 88,223 as compared with 1932.

Suits disposed of by Subordinate Judges.

116. The number of original suits disposed of by Subordinate Judges was 12,029, an increase of 1,256 on the figures of the previous year. The increase was in cases decided both under the

ordinary and Small Cause Court procedure and was spread over both contested and uncontested suits. The number of suits decided under the ordinary procedure was 6,754 and under the Small Cause Court procedure 5,275; of these 33·4 per cent. and 10·6 per cent., respectively, were contested. The percentage of suits decided after full trial under the ordinary procedure shows an increase and that under the Small Cause Court procedure a decrease, as compared with the previous year.

Suits disposed of by Small Causes Court Judges.

117. The Provincial Small Cause Courts disposed of 6,253 original suits, of which 746 were decided after full trial or 27 less than in the previous year.

Pending suits.

118. The number of suits pending at the close of the year was 159,882 against 168,137 in the previous year. The decrease is due to the larger disposal than in the previous year.

Of the pending suits, 3,771 had been pending for more than a year, 62,165 for more than six months and 26,275 for more than three months, representing a decrease in the arrears for more than one year and three months, respectively, and an increase in that pending over six months. Of the suits pending over one year, 2,428 were in the courts of Munsifs and 1,343 in the courts of District and Subordinate Judges, the figures showing a decrease of 6,083 and 1,684, respectively, as compared with 1932. The decrease is partly accounted for by the new rule which permits a suit preliminarily decreed to be shown as disposed of.

The number of suits pending over a year was largest in 24-Parganas (934) followed by Chittagong (580), Hooghly (312), Faridpur (221) and Khulna (169). As compared with the figures of the previous year, the number of year-old suits shows a decrease in all the districts.

Miscellaneous cases.

119. In addition to 93,783 cases instituted during the year, there were 22,512 cases pending trial from the previous year, 778 were revived and 2,051 were received otherwise, making a total of 119,124 cases for disposal before the subordinate courts in Bengal in 1933, against 137,530 in 1932. Of these, excluding transfers, 94,377 were disposed of; 121 being applications for probates and letters of administration were treated as suits on becoming contested, and 22,685 remained pending at the close of the year. Of the cases disposed of, 32,491 were decided without trial, 35,181 *ex parte*, 1,519 on admission of claim, 10,716 on compromise, 14,435 after full trial and 35 on reference to arbitration. Of the pending cases, 314 were pending over a year. Hooghly being responsible for the largest number (109).

120. The total number of insolvency petitions for disposal during the year was 2,989 against 2,908 in the previous year. Of these, 690 were dismissed. One thousand three hundred and twenty petitioners were adjudged to be insolvents, 553 insolvents were discharged or died and the cases of 819 petitioners were annulled. Proceedings in insolvency under the Provincial Insolvency Act.

III.—Calcutta Small Cause Court.

121. The number of suits instituted and decided in the Presidency Court of Small Causes during 1933 and the number pending at its close were 22,802, 24,500 and 3,756, respectively. The figures show a decrease in the number instituted and pending, respectively, and an increase in the number disposed of, as compared with the previous year.

Twenty-eight applications were filed under section 528 of the Calcutta Municipal Act (Bengal Act III of 1923).

The decrease in institutions was spread over all classes of suits, excepting those valued at Rs. 50. The number of suits, the value of which cannot be estimated in money, was larger than in the previous year.

The total value of the litigation was Rs. 51,88,606 against Rs. 58,40,394 in the preceding year.

122. Of the suits disposed of, 754 were decided without trial, 9,709 *ex parte*, 5,455 on admission of claim, 5,013 on compromise, 3,508 after full trial and 61 on reference to arbitration. Mode of disposal.

Of the 3,756 suits pending at the close of the year, 143 were over a year-old, against 135 in 1932.

APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

I.—High Court.

123. One hundred and twenty-nine appeals from decisions on the Original Side were filed during the year and 95 were pending at its commencement. Of the total, 138 were decided and 86 remained pending at the close of the year. The number of appeals disposed of was 32 more than in 1932. On the Appellate Side 23 such appeals were filed during the year and 26 were pending at its commencement. Of these, 33 were decided and 16 remained pending at the close of the year. Appeals under section 15 of the Letters Patent.

II.—Appeals from the subordinate Civil Courts.

124. Three hundred and fifty-nine first appeals were filed during the year, 839 were pending at the commencement of the year and 17 were revived, making a total of 1,215 appeals for Appeals to the High Court from subordinate courts.

disposal, against 1,099 in 1932. Of the total, 186 were disposed of and 1,029 remained pending at the close of the year.

335 appeals from Original Orders were filed during the year and 329 were pending from the previous year, making a total of 664 appeals for disposal, against 615 in 1932. Of this total 314 were disposed of and 350 were pending at the end of the year.

Two thousand four hundred second appeals were filed during the year, 4,667 were pending from the previous year and 8 were revived, making a total of 7,075 appeals for disposal against 7,014 in 1932. Of this total, 2,745 were disposed of, leaving 4,330 pending at the close of the year.

Two hundred and thirteen appeals from Appellate Orders were filed during the year, 162 were pending from the previous year and one was revived, making a total of 376 appeals for disposal against 377 in 1932. Of these, 248 were disposed of and 128 remained pending at the end of the year.

Civil work of the High Court.

125. The following statement shows in detail the civil business which has come before the High Court in its appellate jurisdiction during each of the past three years:—

	Brought before the Court(a).			Heard and determined(a).			Pending at the close of (a).		
	1931.	1932.	1933.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1931.	1932.	1933.
First appeals from—									
Decrees ..	308	319	376	319	260	186	780	839	1,029
Orders	293	311	343	274	294	314	304	321	350
Orders of the Commissioners under section 30 of Act VIII of 1923.	9	4	..	2	6	4	8	6	2
Second appeals from—									
Decrees	3,218	2,508	2,408	3,087	2,347	2,745	4,506	4,667	4,330
Orders	211	207	214	185	215	248	170	162	128
Appeals under the Letters Patent	145	152	152	142	127	171	96	121	102
Reference to Full Bench ..	2	1	1	3	1	..	..	..	1
Reference to Special Bench ..	1	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..
Applications for review ..	62	35	..	62	35	..	..	..	..
References	9	10	10	7	10	8	2	2	4
Case under section 10 of the Indian Bar Councils Act of 1926.	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
Revisions under section 25 of the Provincial Small Cause Court Act.	183	184	187	119	190	194	61	55	48
Other revisions	395	359	457	356	364	442	207	202	217
Rules connected with appeals ..	649	564	657	645	619	631	268	213	239
Divorce cases	9	6	3	13	7	5	5	4	2

(a) Includes cases of Assam.

Of the number of first and second appeals from the decrees and orders instituted during the year under review, 26 first appeals, 19 appeals from Original Orders, 109 second appeals and 22 appeals from Appellate Orders were from Assam and the remainder from Bengal.

126. The following table shows the value of the appeals from the original and appellate decrees of the subordinate civil courts brought before the Court during the year:— Details of value of appeals.

Provinces of Bengal and Assam.

1	Appeals from original decrees of subordinate civil courts. 2	Appeals from appellate decrees of subordinate civil courts. 3	Second and third appeals under the Letters Patent. 4
Not exceeding—			
Rs. 50	13	891	1
Rs. 100	13	382	7
Rs. 500	62	619	15
Rs. 1,000	43	185	..
Rs. 5,000	61	258	..
Rs. 10,000	89	1	..
Rs. 1,00,000	68	2	..
Exceeding Rs. 1,00.000	16	..	..
Value not denotable in money ..	11	(a)70	..
Total ..	376	2,408	23

(a) These are cases under sections 105, 105A, 106, 115C and 180A of the Bengal Tenancy Act.

Results of appeals.

127. The statement below shows the results of appeals decided in the High Court during the year under review:—

Nature of appeals.	Decided on contest after admission.				Otherwise disposed of.				
	Affirmed.	Reversed.	Varied.	Remanded.	Dismissed for default.	Withdrawn.	Compromised.	Appeals summarily dismissed under Order XLI, Rule 11, C. P. C.	Total.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Appeals from Original decrees—									
Bengal—									
District Judge ..	12	7	..	..	2	..	1	..	22
Subordinate Judge ..	55	21	17	6	32	1	17	..	149
Assam—									
District Judge ..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	2
Subordinate Judge ..	5	..	1	..	6	..	1	..	13
Total ..	73	28	18	6	41	1	19	..	186
Appeal from Appellate decrees—									
Bengal—									
District Judge ..	788	77	9	37	14	1	38	165	1,129
Subordinate Judge ..	561	169	19	78	60	7	32	433	1,359
Assam—									
District Judge ..	17	11	1	3	1	1	..	6	40
Subordinate Judge ..	143	16	2	11	1	5	5	34	217
Total ..	1,509	273	31	129	76	14	75	638	2,745
Appeal from orders—									
Bengal—									
Commissioners under section 30 of Act VIII of 1923.	2	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	4
District Judge ..	80	43	13	13	26	3	1	48	221
Subordinate Judge ..	82	42	13	29	63	3	10	53	295
Assam—									
Commissioners under section 30 of Act VIII of 1923.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
District Judge ..	2	..	..	..	1	1	..	1	5
Subordinate Judge ..	14	8	1	2	3	..	2	11	41
Total ..	180	93	27	44	88	7	14	113	566

Note.—Bengal.—Two appeals from original decrees, eight from appellate decrees, one from orders were restored to the file under Order XLI, Rules 19 and 21, during the year under review.

The following table shows the results of appeals decided by the High Court affecting District Judges, Subordinate Judges and Commissioners under section 30 of Act VIII of 1923:—

	Affirmed.			Modified or reversed.		
	District Judges.	Subordinate Judges.	Commissioners under section 30 of Act VIII of 1923.	District Judges.	Subordinate Judges.	Commissioners under section 30 of Act VIII of 1923.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Appeals from—						
Original decrees ..	13	60	..	7	39	..
Appellate decrees ..	805	704	..	98	206	..
Miscellaneous appeals	82	96	2	56	64	..

The following statement shows the duration of pending appeals and the average duration of appeals which have been heard and determined in the High Court during the year 1933:—

	Average duration of appeals heard and determined in 1933.	Duration of appeals pending.		
		Less than one year.	One to two years.	More than two years.
1	2	3	4	5
Bengal.	Days.			
First appeals from—				
Decrees	1028	340	246	366
Orders	351	227	96	11
Orders of Commissioners under section 30 of Act VIII of 1923.	326	..	2	..
Second appeals from—				
Decrees	631	1,786	1,665	597
Orders	241	111	7	1
Assam.				
First appeals from—				
Decrees	951	26	22	29
Orders	389	12	4	..
Orders of Commissioners under section 30 of Act VIII of 1923.	..	..	..	..
Second appeals from—				
Decrees	1,055	71	103	108
Orders	136	9	..	..

Further details of the Original and Appellate business of the year under review will be found in Statement A (Parts I—III) of Civil Business appended to Civil Justice Administration Report, Bengal, 1933.

Appeals to the Privy Council.

128. The following statement shows the details of Privy Council business during the year under review:—

Pending at the end of 1932.	Applications filed.	Struck off or compromised.	Records despatched to England.	Pending—	
				For orders.	For despatch.
85	22	17	5	68	17

Note.—Eleven applications for leave to appeal have been pending for less than one year.

Results of appeals to the Privy Council.

129. The results of eight appeals to the Privy Council were received during the year under review. The decisions of the High Court were affirmed in five instances, reversed in one instance, and in two instances, the appeals were modified and finally remanded.

References to Full Bench.

130. At the commencement of the year no such reference was pending and one was made in the matter of Rule nisi. This reference was not disposed of, and remained pending at the close of the year.

III.—Appellate Courts subordinate to the High Court.

Appeals for disposal.

131. In addition to 9,048 appeals instituted during the year, there were 10,892 appeals pending from the previous year and 9,833 were received otherwise, making a total of 29,773 appeals for disposal before the subordinate courts in Bengal in 1933 against 37,988 in 1932.

The number of appeals instituted during the year, was 9,048 against 10,194 in the previous year. Of these, 3,932 were in rent suits, 3,772 in title suits, and 1,344 in suits for money or movables. The numbers show a decrease of 835, 294 and 17, respectively.

The total value of the appeals instituted in the subordinate courts was Rs. 20,29,827 and was less than that of 1932 by Rs. 92,572.

The number of cases in which an appeal lay, decided by subordinate courts, was 41,471 and the proportion of appeals instituted to appealable decisions, excluding appeals from decisions of revenue officers, was 20·5 per cent. as against 23 per cent. in 1932. The percentage was highest in Hooghly (28·5) followed by Tippera (28·4), Burdwan (25·5), Noakhali (25·1) and Jessore (23·8) and it was lowest in Rangpur (9·7); the percentage of the remaining districts varied between the latter two figures.

The number of appeals instituted was smaller than in the previous year in 13 and larger in 8 districts. The decrease in institution was noticeable in 24-Parganas (342), Noakhali (231), Chittagong (168), Khulna (142) and Birbhum (107). In the remaining districts the variations were less than 100.

Appeals disposed of.

132. The number of appeals decided was 14,269, showing an increase of 1,983 in the number decided by District and Additional Judges and a decrease of 2,325 in that decided by Subordinate Judges, as compared with the previous year.

The decrease in disposal was spread over twelve districts and was largest in Noakhali (657) followed by Bakarganj (428), Midnapore (410) and Faridpur (375).

Appeals pending.

133. The number of appeals pending at the close of the year was 5,950 and was less than that of 1932 by 4,942.

The number of appeals over one year old fell from 3,396 to 669. Chittagong was accountable for the largest number, viz., 217.

Results of appeals.

134. The results of the appeals from the decisions of the lower courts decided during the year were as follows:—

In 7,339 cases, or 51·4 per cent. of the whole, the judgment of the lower court was affirmed; in 1,765 cases or 12·3 per cent. it was modified; and in 2,583 cases or 18·1 per cent. it was reversed; 622 cases or 4·3 per cent. were remanded and 1,960 cases or 13·7 per cent. were either not prosecuted or dismissed for default. The results were more favourable to the lower courts than in the preceding year.

Miscellaneous appeals.

135. Including the number pending from the previous year, the number of miscellaneous appeals for disposal before the civil appellate courts in 1933 was 5,507. Of these, 3,305 were disposed of during the year, leaving 763 appeals pending at the close of the year. The number pending was 302 less than in the previous year.

136. I. HIGH COURT.—The number of first appeals instituted in the High Court during the year was 359 against 300 in 1932 and the number of second appeals instituted was 2,400 against 2,500. The number of first appeals disposed of was 186 against 260 and that of second appeals was 2,745 against 2,347. The pending file of first appeals rose from 839 to 1,029 and that of second appeals fell from 4,667 to 4,330. Average duration of first appeals was more than 2½ years and that of second appeals more than 1½ years, showing an increase in duration in the former and a decrease in the latter, as compared with those of 1932.

II. LOWER COURTS: (*a*) *Institution.*—There was an increase of 66,443 suits instituted in 1932 over the figure for 1931. In 1933 the figure for institutions has exceeded the 1932 figure by 85,865. This means that there has been a total increase in institutions in the last two years of 152,308 suits. It is obvious that were it not for the dwindling number of suits which eventually end in contest, the gazetted staff of 1931 would not be able to cope with the volume of work for disposal in 1933. Actually however between 30 to 40 courts have remained unoccupied since the Spring of 1932 and the indications of reports received during 1934 point to a still further decline in contested work, with a further large numerical increase in institutions.

(*b*) *Disposals.*—Altogether 107,723 more suits were disposed of in 1933 than in 1932, the figure for the latter year being 37,630 in excess of the figure of 1931. As a result the disposals rose by 145,353 in the last two years, while the pending file which had risen by 10,745 in 1932 fell by 8,255 in 1933. The number of year old pending suits in 1932 showed a decrease over the figure of 1931 by 1,943, but the number of such suits pending in 1933 also fell by over 7,000, viz., from 11,538 to 3,771. The decrease is partly accounted for by the new rule which permits of a suit decreed preliminarily being shown as disposed of. There was a general rise in the average disposals per Munsif. Contested disposals rose and the percentage of disposals under the ordinary procedure was less, and that under the Small Cause Court procedure was the same, as compared with 1932.

(*c*) *Decline in appeals.*—Perhaps the most noticeable feature in the report is the decline in the number of regular appeals disposed of and pending. The file of pending appeals has fallen during twelve months by about 50 per cent., viz., from over 10,000 to over 5,000. Of the latter figure, only 700 are pending for a period in excess of one year. It is of interest to note that the number of regular civil appeals which were pending at the end of 1933 in the lower courts of the province of Bengal was only a

little in excess of the number of second appeals now pending in the High Court. The position is that in the mufassal first appeals are not being filed in anything like the quantity associated with the period prior to 1931. So far there has been no corresponding decline in the number of second appeals filed to the High Court but the day would not seem to be far distant when the effect of the position which has been already reached in the mufassal must be felt in the Court to which first appeals from the districts are taken.

The relief offered to the superior courts by the dwindling numbers of civil appeals has been used to advantage in the disposal of numbers of old original suits in the superior courts and to an even greater extent in the ever-increasing disposal of sessions cases by Assistant Sessions Judges, though this latter development adds to the work of Sessions Judges to whom lie appeals from their Assistant Sessions Judges when sentences of 4 years and under are awarded. The agency is a far cheaper one and the High Court have no reason to suppose that it is less efficient than the employment of Additional District and Sessions Judges who are being utilised in correspondingly decreasing numbers.

III. PROVINCIAL STATEMENTS OF CIVIL JUSTICE ADMINISTRATION REPORT, BENGAL, 1933: (*a*) *Statement B.*—This statement again shows wide discrepancy in the number of execution cases pending over a year in the different districts. The number of such cases pending was the lowest in Jessore, viz., 14. In Chittagong the number was 19 and in five other districts less than 50. The highest number pending was in 24-Parganas, viz., 227, followed by Hooghly 184, and Tippera 106. The figures for Calcutta stood at 140. Birbhum which was commented on in 1932 had come down further from 107 to 49. A notable feature in the statement is that the number of applications made in 24-Parganas actually exceeded the figure of Jessore by 14,000 while the pending figure of Jessore was nearly half of that of the 24-Parganas, viz., 5,719 and 12,039, respectively. In Hooghly the number of applications made and pending was also about half of that of the 24-Parganas. In Chittagong the figure for applications was higher than that of Jessore by about 6,000 and that of the 24-Parganas was again higher than that of Chittagong by 8,000; while the difference in the pending figures of the Chittagong, Jessore and Hooghly was almost negligible. Presumably the explanation of this is either that the returns are differently rendered in different districts or that due attention is given to the method of dealing with such applications in Chittagong and

Jessore and other districts where the figures are not out of proportion to the number of such cases in the district and less attention than they deserve is paid in districts like the 24-Parganas, where the year-old figure is unusually high. The total number of the province fell by 228 below the figure of 1932. The total number pending was about 18,000 more than in 1932, while the number of applications made in the year under report exceeded that of the previous year by nearly 36,000. The pending figures cannot therefore be regarded as unsatisfactory.

(*b*) *Statement D.*—The form of this statement has been further revised. The largest number of applications for interlocutory injunctions filed in 1933 was in the 24-Parganas, viz., 404, and there were four cases pending from 1932 making a total of 408 for disposal. In 31 of these cases the prayer for injunction was summarily refused; in 287 injunctions were issued *ex parte;* and in 90 injunctions were issued after giving notice to the opposite party. Of the number in which injunctions were issued *ex parte,* 102 were made absolute after hearing the opposite party, 86 were dissolved and 56 continued for absence of opposite party. Hooghly comes next with 269 applications filed during the year and 31 pending from the previous year, making a total of 300 for disposal. Of these, in 21 cases the prayer for injunction was summarily refused, in 187 injunctions were issued *ex parte* and in 89 after giving notice to the opposite party. Of the number in which injunctions were issued *ex parte,* 78 were made absolute after hearing the opposite party, 82 were dissolved and 20 continued for absence of opposite party. In a district as large as Mymensingh there were only 104 applications for disposal throughout the year, while Rangpur shows the lowest figure, viz., 17. Districts with 100 applications or more to deal with were Chittagong (155), Burdwan (150), Dacca (149), Midnapore (140), Noakhali (113) and Tippera (102); even Birbhum shows 76.

(*c*) *Statement H.*—One hundred and two suits instituted under the ordinary procedure prior to 1928 were still pending at the close of 1933. Faridpur was accountable for the highest number, viz., 25, of which no less than 19 were pending before the Munsifs. The majority of the suits instituted prior to 1928 were pending before the Subordinate Judges. The number of such suits decreased to 102 against 607 in 1932. The total number of such suits which were pending during the subsequent years from 1928 to 1932 was 122,673. This number was reduced to 3,642 at the close of 1933. Including suits instituted in 1933, 110,751 suits remained pending at the close of the year. The pending file shows an improvement on the figures of the previous year.

The union courts.

137. Union courts have been established under the Bengal Village Self-Government Act, 1919, in all the districts in Bengal except Dinajpur, Darjeeling and Midnapore. The total number of courts established was 1,179 against 999 in the previous year. The number of suits instituted in these courts was 166,026, showing an increase of 27,634 over that of 1932. Of the total number of applications under section 88 proviso of Village Self-Government Act for disposal during the year under report, 79 cases were either dismissed or not prosecuted. In 248 cases the lower courts' orders were confirmed, in 16 modified, and in 134 reversed and 42 cases were remanded for retrial. The courts are reported generally to be viewed with appreciation by the public and to the affording some relief to the Munsifs in the majority of the districts in which they are established.

Inspection.

138. The courts of 24 Subordinate and Small Cause Court Judges and 79 Munsifs were inspected by District and Additional Judges during the year under report as against 13 and 59, respectively, in 1932. Inspections are overdue in many courts of the districts of Hooghly-Howrah, Dinajpur, 24-Parganas and Chittagong and in a few courts in Barisal, Noakhali, Mymensingh and elsewhere. There are only a few districts where the ideal of an annual inspection has been attained, viz., Midnapore, Pabna-Bogra and Khulna.

Enrolments.

139. The statement below shows the number of legal practitioners enrolled in 1933 and the total amount of fees and stamps realised therefrom.

No.	Names of different grades of practitioners.	Total amount of fees and stamps realised.
		Rs.
21	Barristers-at-Law	16,065
2	Advocates entitled to practise on the Original Side	30
86	Advocates (including Barristers) ..	44,250*
507	Pleaders	20,515
186	Mukhtars	2,800
	Total ..	83,660

*Other than Barristers.

This sum is included in the items "Other fees" under the head "Receipts."

Receipts and charges of the civil courts.

140. The receipts of the civil courts in Bengal and of the High Court amounted to Rs. 2,03,83,854, showing an increase of Rs. 18,82,312, and the charges amounted to Rs. 79,64,567, showing an increase of Rs. 70,845 on those of 1932. Including the amount realised on account of duty on probate, etc., the profit to Government from civil litigation amounted to Rs. 1,24,19,287; and excluding this item to Rs. 1,08,85,933.

	Rs.
In the High Court	.. 13,31,586
In other Courts	.. 2,01,768
Total	.. 15,33,354*

*The figures are for the financial year.

Details of the receipts and charges are as follows:—

Receipts.

	Rs.
In stamps—	
Process fees	.. 24,20,897
Other fees	.. 1,71,77,034
In cash or special stamps—	
Other receipts	.. 2,48,584
Copying and comparing fees ..	.. 5,35,055
Fines	.. 2,284
Total	.. 2,03,83,854

Charges.

Salaries of Judicial Officers ..	.. 29,37,942
Establishment—	
Process-servers	.. 8,91,805
Others	.. 28,89,692
Copyists' fees ..	.. 3,99,418
Contingencies and refunds ..	.. 8,45,710
Total	.. 79,64,567

There was an increase in receipts under all heads except "Other receipts" and "Fines." Under the head "Other fees" the increase amounted to more than Rs. 17,00,000. The increase in expenditure was under all heads except "Process-servers", "Contingencies and refunds" and "Copyists' fees" and was largest under the head "Salaries of judicial officers" which exceeded the figure of 1932 by Rs. 1,40,000.

Criminal Justice.

[Report on the Administration of Criminal Justice in the Presidency of Bengal during the year 1933.]

Judicial staff.

141. For sessions work, the staff consisted of 21 Sessions Judges and 14 Additional Sessions Judges employed throughout the year. Thirty-eight Subordinate Judges vested with the powers of Assistant Sessions Judges were employed for various periods, viz., three each at Burdwan, Hooghly and the 24-Parganas, two each at Howrah, Nadia, Jessore, Khulna, Dacca, Mymensingh, Faridpur, Tippera and Chittagong and one each at Birbhum, Bankura, Midnapore, Murshidabad, Bakarganj, Rajshahi, Malda, Dinajpur, Rangpur, Pabna and Noakhali; they decided 644 cases. Seventeen temporary Additional Sessions Judges were employed in the province, two at Bakarganj, viz., one throughout the year, exclusive of the civil court vacation and the other from the 15th May till the end of the year, exclusive of the civil court vacation; one at Bogra from the 1st January till the 17th July; one at Dinajpur-Jalpaiguri from the 20th February till the 4th April; one at Hooghly from the 23rd February till the 13th May; one at Howrah from the 19th July till the 22nd December, exclusive of the civil court vacation; one at Khulna from the 1st February till the 18th September and again from the 30th October till the end of the year; five at Mymensingh, viz., one throughout the year, exclusive of the civil court vacation, two from the 1st January till the 28th February, one from the 1st January till the 19th June and the fifth from the 1st January till the 29th July; one each at Nadia and Pabna from the 1st January till the 28th February; two at the 24-Parganas, viz., one throughout the year, exclusive of the civil court vacation and the other from the 23rd October till the end of the year; one at Rajshahi from the 1st January to the 28th August.

Magisterial staff.

142. The magisterial staff employed at the close of the year including that of the Presidency town, consisted of 452 stipendiary and 394 honorary magistrates. These figures represent a decrease of 4 and 27, respectively, on the numbers of the previous year. Two special magistrates were employed, one each at Noakhali and Hooghly for 72 and 12 days, respectively, during the year. The special magistrate of Noakhali decided 90 cases. The special magistrate of Hooghly was engaged in the trial of a case of one person who was sentenced to imprisonment for a term of six years for an offence under section 20 of the Arms Act. Of the 452 stipendiary magistrates, 279 exercised first, 136 second and 37 third class powers. There were 97 benches of magistrates constituted from among 356 honorary magistrates in the mufassal. Of

these 71 were independent and 26 were restricted to the trial of cases under the Municipal Act.

Special Magistrates under the Bengal Public Security Act.

143. Special magistrates were appointed under the Bengal Public Security Act in the districts of Midnapore and Hooghly for the trial of 49 cases. Thirty witnesses were examined in these 49 cases and all the 91 persons concerned in them were convicted. The convictions resulted in 78 persons being sentenced to rigorous imprisonment, 4 to rigorous imprisonment with fine and 9 being released on probation for one year under the provisions of section 562 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Special Magistrates under the Bengal Suppression of Terrorist Outrages Act.

144. Special magistrates were appointed under the Bengal Suppression of Terrorist Outrages Act for the trial of 60 cases in which 172 persons were concerned. During the year, they decided 58 out of 60 cases, 2 with 2 persons remaining undecided at its close. Of the persons tried, 142 were convicted and 28 were acquitted. Of the persons convicted, 140 were sentenced to various terms of imprisonment, one to a fine of Rs. 1,000 and one to be detained in a Reformatory School for 5 years. The number of witnesses examined in the aforesaid cases was 1,093.

Special Tribunals under the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Act.

145. Special tribunals were constituted under the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Act to decide 114 cases of 262 persons. One hundred and ten cases with 196 persons were disposed of by them and 4 with 66 persons remained pending at the close of the year. Altogether 913 witnesses were examined in the course of the trial of the above persons. The trial of the 196 persons resulted in the conviction of 170 and acquittal of 26. Of the persons convicted, 4 were sentenced to death, 5 to transportation for life, 82 to various terms of rigorous imprisonment and 79 to fine only. The cases of 4 persons sentenced to death were referred to the High Court.

Offences reported.

146. The number of offences reported during the year combined with the number pending from the previous year was 386,301 against 382,338 in 1932.

Of this number, 146,022 were under the Indian Penal Code, and 240,279 under special and local laws. These figures are 13,821 less and 17,784 more, respectively, than those of 1932. The decrease was most marked in the Presidency town, Dacca, Howrah and Pabna as regards offences under the Penal Code; and the increase was most noticeable in Howrah, Presidency town, 24-Parganas and Burdwan as regards offences under special and local laws.

Cases found to be true.

147. Of the total number of cases under inquiry, 336,075 were found to be true, and of these 296,303 were brought to trial.

Compared with 1932, the number of cases found to be true and the number brought to trial show an increase of 6,122 and 4,668, respectively.

ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

I.—Presidency Magistrates' Courts.

148. Of the total number of cases brought to trial, 129,568 were in the courts of the police and municipal magistrates in the Presidency town, and 166,735 in the courts of magistrates in the mufassal.

Presidency Magistrates, Calcutta.

149. The number of cases brought before the Presidency Magistrates, including the municipal magistrates was 129,568 or 1,654 less than in 1932. The number of cases under special and local laws rose from 113,947 to 122,123 and that under the Penal Code fell from 17,275 to 7,445. Under the former, there was a noticeable increase in offences against the Police (Town) Acts, which rose from 40,717 to 49,164 while under the latter head there was a marked decrease in offences affecting the public health which fell from 12,299 to 3,201. There has thus been a marked increase by over 8,000 of cases under special and local laws and an equally marked decrease by nearly 10,000 of cases under the Indian Penal Code, involving fluctuations which, so far as they can be accounted for by the Chief Presidency Magistrate, appear to be due to a greater use being made of section 66 of Act IV of 1866 to the exclusion of, and in preference to, section 283 of the Indian Penal Code, in cases of obstruction of traffic.

Before the Presidency Magistrates, other than the municipal magistrates, 100,031 cases were disposed of during the year, of which 19,501 were before stipendiary magistrates, and 80,530 before honorary magistrates sitting singly. The corresponding figures for 1932 were 24,749 and 82,044, respectively.

The number of witnesses examined before the police magistrates was 19,917 as compared with 20,660 in 1932. The number who attended and were discharged without examination was 647 or 3·1 per cent. against nil of the total number in attendance in 1932. Of the total number in attendance, 15,207 (73·9) were discharged on the first, 5,131 (25) on the second, 204 (1) on the third and 22 (1) after the third day. The number of witnesses detained for more than three days was 2 more than in 1931. A sum of Rs. 4,278 against Rs. 2,876 in 1932 was paid to witnesses in private cases on account of expenses of their attendance excluding the amount paid by the Commissioner of Police, Calcutta, to witnesses in police cases.

The number of cases brought before the municipal magistrates during the year was 19,469 and the number disposed of by them was 19,474. Compared with the figures of 1932, the number of cases instituted and disposed of show a decrease of 4,954 and 4,970, respectively.

The number of witnesses examined before the municipal magistrates fell from 18,629 to 16,130. Of those in attendance, none were detained for more than three days.

Results of trials.

150. The aggregate number of persons under trial before the Presidency Magistrates, other than the municipal magistrates, was 114,726. Of the persons tried 6,799 were acquitted or discharged, 107,465 were convicted, 100 were committed to sessions and 362 remained under trial at the close of the year. Of the persons acquitted or discharged, the cases of 2,625 were compounded, withdrawn or dismissed for default. Of 8,536 persons tried for offences under the Penal Code, 4,804 were convicted and 3,732 acquitted or discharged. The results of trials before each class of magistrates during the year are shown below:—

	Acquitted or discharged.	Convicted.	Percentage of convictions.
Stipendiary magistrates	5,812	27,782	82·7
Benches of magistrates	..	..	..
Honorary magistrates sitting singly ..	987	79,683	98·7

Of the persons convicted, 5,397 were punished with imprisonment, 87,330 with fine or forfeiture, and 87 with whipping. In addition to these sentences, 292 persons were required to give security.

Twenty-two thousand nine hundred and twenty-six persons were tried by the municipal magistrates of whom 21,406 were convicted, 1,466 were acquitted or discharged, and 54 remained under trial at the close of the year. The percentage of convictions was 93·6. Of the persons convicted, 8,428 were punished with fine.

II.—Magistrates outside Calcutta.

Cases disposed of.

151. Including cases committed to the sessions, 166,637 cases were disposed of during the year.

The increase in the number of cases disposed of during the year was the highest in Howrah (5,134); followed by 24-Parganas (1,147); Burdwan (1,035); and Tippera (657); while the decrease was the greatest in Dacca (963); the next lower in order being Bakarganj (674); Rajshahi (617) and Faridpur (414).

The disposals were distributed as follows:—

District Magistrates	38
Subordinate stipendiary magistrates	141,054
Honorary magistrates	17,978
Benches of magistrates	7,459
Special magistrates	91

In addition to the cases shown above, District and Subdivisional Magistrates decided 17 cases referred to them under sections 347 and 349 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

The number of cases decided during the year was 5,776 more than in 1932. The increase occurred in the courts of subordinate stipendiary magistrates and honorary magistrates, who disposed of 8,234 and 1,364 cases, respectively, more than in the preceding year. The number of cases disposed of by benches of magistrates, District Magistrates and Special Magistrates show a decrease of 376,947 and 6, respectively.

The total number of cases disposed of by the District and Subdivisional Magistrates was 55, the largest number having been decided by the District Magistrate of Noakhali (8).

Result of trials.

152. In the cases finally disposed of by magistrates, 247,958 persons were accused or 4,628 more than in 1932. Of the total, 128,547 or 51·8 per cent. were convicted and 119,411 or 48·1 per cent. were acquitted or discharged. In 1932 the percentage of conviction was 52·5.

Of the persons acquitted or discharged the cases of 65,213 were compounded, withdrawn or dismissed for default. The percentage of convictions of persons actually tried was 70·3 per cent. against 73·7 in 1932.

Of the persons for offences under the Indian Penal Code, 32,341 or 24·5 per cent. were convicted and 99,703 or 75·5 per cent. acquitted or discharged. Of the latter, the cases against 58,308 persons were compounded, withdrawn or dismissed for default without trial and those against 41,395 after trial; the percentage of conviction on the total number acquitted or discharged being 43·9 per cent. against 50·4 in 1932.

The total number of persons awaiting trial before magistrates at the close of 1933 was 16,910 as compared with 17,363 in 1932. Of these, 65 were awaiting trial for more than six months. The number of persons in custody at the close of the year was 2 against 49 in 1932. Explanations of delays in the disposal of all cases

pending for more than three months, submitted by the magistrates concerned, have been considered by the High Court, and the necessary orders have been passed on them.

The general result of the trials before magistrates of each class was as follows:—

Class of magistrates.	Number of persons. Acquitted or discharged.	Convicted.	Percentage of convictions.
Benches of magistrates	1,416	6,745	82·6
Subordinate stipendiary magistrates ..	107,946	107,429	49·9
Honorary magistrates	9,878	14,271	59·1
Special magistrates	116	98	29·3
District magistrates	55	54	49·5

Punishments.

153. The sentences passed on persons convicted were as follows:—

Imprisonment	22,007
Fine or forfeiture	103,698
Whipping	127

In addition to these sentences, 5,029 persons were required to give security.

Excluding the cases of 36 youthful offenders whose sentences were commuted to detention in a reformatory school, sentences of imprisonment were imposed on 2,452 persons for terms not exceeding fifteen days; on 13,188 persons for terms not exceeding six months; on 6,297 persons for terms not exceeding two years; and on 34 persons for terms exceeding two years.

Sentences of whipping were passed on 127 persons against 132 in the preceding year.

The fines imposed aggregated Rs. 11,09,328 against Rs. 12,49,296 in 1932. Rupees 5,86,752 were realised, of which Rs. 83,413 were paid as compensation to complainants against Rs. 6,29,094 and Rs. 91,483, respectively, in the previous year.

Miscellaneous proceedings under the Code of Criminal Procedure.

154. The total number of miscellaneous cases decided during the year was 7,793 against 7,413 in the previous year.

Frivolous or vexatious accusations.

155. The provisions of section 250 of the Code of Criminal Procedure were utilized in 229 cases. The complainants were ordered to pay compensation to the extent of Rs. 6,618.

Rupees 5,257 were realised and of this amount, Rs. 5,146 were awarded as compensation to the accused persons.

Witnesses.

156. The number of witnesses examined in the courts of magistrates in the mufassal was 382,317 as compared with 385,041 in 1932. The number who attended and were discharged without examination was 138,087 or 26·5 per cent. of the whole number in attendance; the percentage in the preceding year was 27·5. The amount paid to witnesses on account of the expenses of their attendance fell from Rs. 2,54,609 in 1932 to Rs. 2,46,440 in 1933.

Of the total number in attendance, 351,020 (67·4 per cent.) were discharged on the first day; 133,634 (25·7 per cent.) on the second day; 31,209 (6 per cent.) on the third day; and 4,541 (·9 per cent.) after the third day. The number of witnesses detained for more than three days was 1,445 less than in 1932.

The districts in which the largest percentage of witnesses was detained for more than three days were Noakhali and the 24-Parganas (1·9) each, Khulna (1·4) and Dinajpur (1·2). Explanations of these detentions have been dealt with by the High Court.

Trials of European British subjects.

157. The cases of 36 European British subjects were decided during the year. Of the accused persons, none of whom wanted to be tried by a mixed jury, 24 were convicted and 12 acquitted. The convictions in 19 cases were for offences under special and local laws, in 2 for offences against property, in 2 for offences against contempts of the lawful authority of public servants and in one for an offence affecting the public health, etc. The number of European British subjects tried was largest in Burdwan (17).

III.—Courts of Sessions.

Cases disposed of.

158. The number of cases disposed of in the courts of session was 2,158 against 2,261 in the previous year.

Results of trials.

159. There were 7,553 persons or 530 less than in 1932, under trial before the courts of sessions. The cases of 6,524 persons were decided, 19 persons died or escaped and 1,010 persons remained under trial at the close of the year. Of the 6,524 persons tried, 3,611 or 55·3 per cent. were convicted and 2,697 were acquitted or discharged and the cases of 216 persons were referred to the High Court under sections 307 and 374 of the Code of Criminal Procedure; the figures for 1932 were 6,611, 3,250 or 49·2 per cent., 3,163 and 198, respectively.

Punishments.

160. The following sentences were passed by the courts of sessions:—

Death	39
Transportation or penal servitude	162
Imprisonment	3,371
Fine or forfeiture	147
Whipping	20

In addition to these sentences, 369 persons were required to give security.

Sentences of imprisonment were passed for the following terms:—

Not exceeding—	
15 days	22
6 months	205
2 years	779*
Exceeding 2 years	2,367*

* Includes 2 persons on whom consecutive sentences were passed,

Fines to the amount of Rs. 38,109 were imposed by courts of sessions as compared with Rs. 18,658 imposed in the preceding year. The total realisation of the year aggregated Rs. 4,668 as compared with Rs. 6,832 in 1932. The amount paid from fines realised as compensation was Rs. 62 against Rs. 1,005 in 1932.

Jury trials.

161. The number of persons tried by jury was 5,907 and of the persons so tried, the Sessions Judge approved of the verdict of the jury in respect of 5,716 persons and disapproved of it in respect of 191.

The Sessions Judge disagreed with the verdict of the jury in regard to 184 persons and referred their cases to the High Court under section 307 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Trials by assessors.

162. The number of persons tried with the aid of assessors was 128. In the cases of 68 persons, the Sessions Judge concurred in the opinion of both the assessors; in the cases of 55 he differed from the opinion of one, and in the cases of 5 he differed from the opinion of both the assessors.

163. The average duration of sessions trials, from the date of commitment to the date of decision, fell from 113·8 days in 1932 to 68·3 days in 1933. Notice was taken by the High Court of all cases of unusual duration. Duration of cases.

The duration of cases was notably high in the districts of Jalpaiguri, Darjeeling and Howrah, it having risen from 88 to 156 days in Jalpaiguri, from 58 to 94 days in Darjeeling and from 87 to 103 days in Howrah. On the other hand, there was a remarkable reduction from 187 to 49 days in Noakhali, from 205·5 to 83·7 days in Mymensingh, from 130·5 to 45·9 days in Rangpur and from 135 to 53 days in Malda.

164. The number of witnesses in attendance before the courts of session was 42,183. Of these, 31,556 were examined and 10,627 discharged without examination, against 31,873 and 13,741, respectively, in 1932. Witnesses.

Of the total number in attendance, 31,054 (73·6 per cent.) were discharged on the first day; 8,575 (20·3 per cent.) on the second day; 2,043 (4·9 per cent.) on the third day; and 511 (1·2 per cent.) after the third day. The proportion of witnesses discharged after the third day was smaller than in 1932 by 1,070 or 2·3 per cent. The High Court have taken due notice of cases of excessive detention of witnesses in reviewing the district reports. The amount paid to witnesses on account of the expenses incurred by them in attending sessions trials was Rs. 1,05,183 as compared with Rs. 1,41,628 in 1932. The amounts paid to jurors and witnesses in cases in which trial had opened but had been adjourned and had not reopened during the year were Rs. 2,441-2-9 and Rs. 2,699-7-3, respectively.

165. The number of cases disposed of was 62 against 42 in the previous year. Cases disposed of in the High Court Sessions.

Altogether 119 persons were tried, of whom 60 were convicted and 59 acquitted.

APPELLATE JURISDICTION

I.—High Court.

166. At the opening of the year, 253 appeals from sentences or orders of criminal courts were pending before the High Court. During the year 858 appeals were preferred and 961 were decided leaving 150 pending at its close. The number preferred was 215 less, while that decided was 23 more than in the preceding year. The pending file shows a decrease of 102 appeals.

Of the appeals preferred against sentences, 696 were from courts of sessions, 154 from courts of Presidency Magistrates and 2 from the magistrates exercising special powers under section 34 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. Six appeals were preferred by the local Government against orders of acquittal.

Results of appeals.

167. The results of criminal appeals decided in the High Court during the year under review are shown in the following statement:—

	Decided after admission.					Otherwise disposed of.	Appeals summarily dismissed.	Total.
	Confirmed.	Enhanced.	Reduced, altered or modified.	Reversed or proceedings quashed.	Retrial ordered.			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Appeals from Presidency Magistrates ..	65	10	24	33	3	1	57	211
Appeals from Magistrates acting under section 34, Criminal Procedure Code ..	7	..	..	1	..	1	..	9
Appeals from Sessions Judges ..	(a) 167	15	43	(b) 25	8	..	(a) 481	739
Appeals by Government	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	2
Total ..	240	25	67	59	11	3	556	961

(a) Of these, 2 appeals are from the orders of civil courts under section 476(B), Civil Procedure Code.

(b) Of these, 1 appeal is from the order of a civil court under section 476(B), Civil Procedure Code.

Thirty-four appeals were preferred from the decisions of the special magistrates appointed under the Bengal Suppression of Terrorist Outrages Act and 17 from those of the Special Tribunals constituted under the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Act. Of these, 34 were decided during the year, leaving 13 of the former, and 4 of the latter, pending at its close. The orders of the Special Magistrates and Tribunals were confirmed in 25 instances, modified in 4, reversed in 4, and summarily dismissed in 1.

168. The following statement shows in detail the criminal business which has come before the High Court in its appellate jurisdiction during each of the past three years:— Criminal work of the High Court.

	Brought before the Court (a).			Heard and determined (a).			Pending at the close of (a).		
	1931.	1932.	1933.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1931.	1932.	1933.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Appeals under section—									
410, Cr. P. C. ..	991	1,180	996	1,000	1,047	1,095	144	277	178
417, Cr. P. C. ..	7	1	6	10	3	2	2	..	4
References under section—									
123, Cr. P. C. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
307, Cr. P. C. ..	79	84	78	86	64	80	18	38	36
339, Cr. P. C. ..	..	2	..	..	2	..	..	..	..
341, Cr. P. C. ..	..	3	3	..	2	4	..	1	..
374, Cr. P. C. ..	15	23	31	16	23	28	2	2	5
432, Cr. P. C. ..	1	..	2	1	..	1	..	..	1
Revisions under section—									
435, Cr. P. C. ..	1,184	1,266	1,312	1,224	1,080	1,383	118	304	283
438, Cr. P. C. ..	206	264	245	218	221	281	27	70	34
476, Cr. P. C. ..	14	13	13	14	18	12	2	2	3
526, Cr. P. C. ..	93	55	76	92	55	76	5	5	5
References to Full Bench ..	..	..	1	2	..	..	..	..	1

(a) Includes figures for Assam.

II.—Appellate Courts subordinate to the High Court.

169. The number of appeals disposed of in the courts of session was 4,695 against 4,831 in the previous year. In the appeals decided, 9,206 persons were concerned. Sessions courts.

The appeals of 2,120 persons or 23 per cent. were summarily dismissed; 3,066 appellants, whose appeals were admitted, were altogether unsuccessful; 1,580 obtained an alteration of sentence; and 2,164 were acquitted. The cases of 276 appellants were otherwise disposed of.

The proportion of persons whose appeals were wholly unsuccessful, successful in obtaining an alteration of the original orders, and successful in obtaining their reversal was 56·3, 17·2, and 23·5, respectively. Of those concerned in admitted appeals only, the proportions were 43·3, 22·3 and 30·5 per cent. In the case of admitted appeals, the results were more favourable to appellants than in the previous year.

Magistrates' courts.

170. In the courts of magistrates, 3,512 appeals were decided against 3,356 in the previous year. In the appeals decided, 6,545 persons were concerned. Of these, the appeals of 984 were rejected, and the sentences of 2,571, whose appeals were admitted, were confirmed, making a total of 3,555 wholly unsuccessful appellants, 54·3 per cent. Of the remainder, 950 appellants or 14 per cent. obtained an alteration of the sentences passed on them, 1,912 or 29·2 per cent. their total annulment and the cases of 128 appellants were otherwise disposed of. Compared with 1932, the results were less favourable to appellants.

SUPERINTENDENCE, REFERENCE AND REVISION.

I.—High Court.

References under section 307, Code of Criminal Procedure.

171. Thirty-four references made under this section were pending in the High Court at the opening of the year, and 71 were made during the year. Seventy-four of these references, in which 200 persons were concerned, were decided during the year. Of these, 98 persons were acquitted, 1 was sentenced to death, 5 to transportation for life, 89 to various terms of imprisonment, 6 were remanded for retrial, and 1 was ordered to be detained in the lunatic asylum at Kanke.

References under section 374, Code of Criminal Procedure.

172. One reference made under this section for the confirmation of death sentence was pending in the High Court at the opening of the year and 29 were made during the year. Of these, 25, in which 33 persons were concerned, were decided during the year. Sentences of death were confirmed in the cases of 15 persons and commuted to transportation for life in those of 9 persons. 3 persons were sentenced to 10 years' rigorous imprisonment, 1 was ordered for retrial and 5 were acquitted.

References under section 3 (2) of the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment (Supplementary) Act, 1925.

173. During the year 3 references under this section in which 4 persons were concerned, were made to the High Court for the confirmation of the sentence of death passed on them. Two, in which three persons were concerned, were decided during the year, and the remaining one with one person was pending at its close. The sentence of death was confirmed in the cases of 2 persons and commuted to transportation for life in that of the third person.

Revision.

174. During the year, 205 cases were reported for the orders of the High Court by Sessions Judges and District Magistrates under section 438 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, and 55 were pending at the opening of the year. Two hundred and thirty of these cases were decided during the year and 30 remained undecided at its close.

175. Including the number pending from the previous year, there were 69 applications under section 526 of the Code of Criminal Porcedure for the transfer of cases from one court or district to another for disposal during the year. Of these, 65 were disposed of and 4 remained pending at the close of the year. Applications for transfer.

II.—Courts subordinate to the High Court.

176. Including the cases of accused persons who themselves applied for revision of the orders passed on them in the courts of magistrates and the cases of those against whom such applications were made by complainants, the cases of 4,740 persons were decided on revision by courts of session during the year. The number was 487 less than in 1932. The applications of 937 persons were rejected, while the orders of the lower courts were confirmed in the cases of 2,412 persons. The orders passed were reversed in the cases of 48 persons and altered in the cases of 2 persons. The cases of 1,341 persons were otherwise disposed of. Sessions courts.

177. The cases of 1,695 accused persons, who applied for revision, or against whom applications were made by complainants, came before the District Magistrates for revision. The number was 4 less than in 1932. Of the total, the applications of 815 persons were rejected and in the cases of 386, the original sentence or order was upheld. The sentences or orders were altered in the cases of 20 persons and reversed in those of 91 persons. The cases of 383 persons were otherwise disposed of. Magistrates' courts.

178. Union benches have been established under the Bengal Village Self-Government Act of 1919 in all the districts of Bengal except Midnapore and Darjeeling. The total number of benches established and in existence was 1,348 against 1,177 in the previous year. The number of offences reported to these benches was 81,366 showing an increase of 12,766 on that of 1932. The benches are reported to be working satisfactorily and growing in popularity. They are also said to be affording appreciable relief to magistrates in most of the districts. Union benches.

179. (*a*) The number of offences reported during the year was about 4,000 more than in 1932. The increase was solely under Special and Local Laws; those under the Penal Code fell by nearly 14,000. About 6,000 more cases were decided in the mufassal courts than in 1932, while in the Presidency town the disposal fell by about 12,000. General.

The number of appellate and revisional cases disposed of by magistrates in the mufassal rose by 156 and 22, respectively, compared with the figures for 1932. The results of the appeals varied very little, about 54 per cent. were wholly unsuccessful and the rest were either altered, annulled or otherwise disposed of.

(*b*) In the courts of session the number of cases disposed of was less by 103 as compared with the figure for 1932, while the percentage of convictions of persons rose from 49·2 to 55·3. The highest number of sessions cases disposed of by an individual Judge was 59, by Mr. Younie, Sessions Judge, Dinajpur-Jalpaiguri-Darjeeling, throughout the year. The next higher number was disposed of by the 1st Additional District and Sessions Judge, Barisal (52), followed by the 2nd Additional Judge, Mymensingh (48), and the Additional Judge, Midnapore (47). The Sessions Judges of Tippera and Murshidabad and the Additional Judges of Jessore, and of the 5th Court of Mymensingh, disposed of more than 40 cases each.

The number of appeals disposed of in the courts of session fell from 4,831 in 1932 to 4,695 in 1933. The results of the appeals were almost stationary, about 56 per cent. being confirmed and the rest either modified or reversed.

The number of applications for revision disposed of in the courts of session shows a slight rise, viz., from 1,588 in 1932 to 1,636 in 1933, but the number of persons concerned in these cases was less by 487.

(*c*) The total number of witnesses examined both in the Presidency town and in the mufassal fell from 456,203 in 1932 to 449,920 in 1933: the number of persons detained for more than 3 days also fell by about 2,500 as compared with the figure for 1932. The amount paid to witnesses on account of expenses incurred by them for their attendance was about Rs. 43,000 less than that paid in 1932.

(*d*) Four persons (3 in the 24-Parganas and 1 in Bakarganj) were under trial for offences against the State. All the four persons were tried and convicted during the year.

Receipts and charges.

180. After debiting, as usual, to the administration of criminal justice a portion of the salaries of judicial officers, proportionate to the time which their returns show them to have devoted to criminal work, the total charges for the year amounted to Rs. 37,89,072. Of this amount, Rs. 22,16,049 were for the salaries of judicial officers, Rs. 1,34,220 for fixed and temporary copying establishments, Rs. 1,51,457 for process-servers, Rs. 6,59,104 for other establishments and Rs. 6,28,242 for contingencies and refunds.

The receipts amounted to Rs. 18,16,253. Of this amount, Rs. 9,15,625 were under fines, Rs. 1,18,985 under process-fees, Rs. 1,86,996 under copying and comparing fees, Rs. 5,09,386 under court-fee stamps receipts other than the above, and Rs. 85,261 were miscellaneous receipts.

The receipts and charges were less by about Rs. 11,500 and Rs. 1,25,100, respectively, as compared with the figure for 1932. The reason for the decrease in receipts under the heads "process-fees" and "court-fee stamps" appears to be due to economic distress and the drop in expenditure chiefly to the decrease in staff and contingencies and refunds.

CHAPTER IV.

Land Revenue Administration.

Realisation of the Revenue.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration of Bengal for the year 1933-34.]

Total collection.

181. The total number of estates paying land revenue was 101,776 against 101,594 last year. Of these 94,005 were permanently settled estates, 4,325 temporarily settled estates (in which term is included the estates of recusant proprietors let out in farm and Government estates let out in farm) and 3,446 estates were under the direct management of Government. The current demand was Rs. 3,07,91,739 against Rs 3,05,28,959 in the preceding year. The increase of Rs. 2,62,780 was due to the resettlement of temporarily settled estates on the termination of the existing leases, to the settlement of newly accreted lands, waste lands and tea estates and to the progressive increase of demand in Government estates. The total realisable demand including arrears of Rs. 1,17,01,987 was Rs. 4,24,93,726, out of which the amount collected was Rs. 2,94,99,825, being 69·42 per cent. of the total and 95·80 per cent. of the current demand against 70·25 and 90·49, respectively, in the previous year. The total outstanding balance stood at Rs. 1,26,86,493 or 29·85 per cent. of the total demand.

Miscellaneous revenue.

182. The total collection of miscellaneous land revenue amounted to Rs. 9·01 lakhs against 11·76 lakhs in the previous year.

Redemption of land revenue.

183. The total number of holdings of which the land revenue was redeemed during the year under report was 273 against 246 in the preceding year. The total amount of land revenue redeemed during the year was Rs. 274 and the total price realised was Rs. 8,144. The corresponding figures of the preceding year were Rs. 290 and Rs. 8,446, respectively.

Coercive measures: (a) Sale Law.

184. The number of defaults was 31,169 and sales 1,826 as against 26,055 and 1,344, respectively, in the preceding year. The number exempted under section 18 including those for petty arrears was 17,697 or 89·7 per cent. of the total number advertised for sale. This indicates that the Sunset Law was administered with leniency.

185. The total number of certificate cases instituted during the year other than those for cesses was 193,809 as against 155,280 in the preceding year. The percentage of certificate cases disposed of the total number for disposal was 49·83 against 51·54 in the preceding year. In the majority of cases payment was made on the issue of notices or on attachment of property. Actual sale was necessary in 23,176 cases or 14·4 per cent. of the total number of cases disposed of (160,263) during the year under review. (b) Certificates.

Condition of the People.

186. During the year under report, although the weather conditions were not everywhere favourable, the outturn of crops was, apart from local floods, satisfactory except in the districts of Malda, Burdwan, Birbhum and Hooghly. There were floods in the Damodar, Ajoy and Bhagirathi, and breaches in the Chetua embankment in Ghatal and the Rupnarain embankment in the Tamluk subdivision of Midnapore district. Parts of the 24-Parganas, Bogra, Rajshahi and Malda districts were also visited by floods, resulting in the destruction or damage of jute and paddy. Crops were also injured in various localities by heavy rainfall, water-hyacinth, blight and insect-pests. Cattle disease appeared in various places. A cyclone in Pabna, and a tornado of considerable violence in certain parts of the Rajshahi district, caused damage to standing crops, cattle, houses and property of the people in the affected areas. Prompt and adequate measures were taken by local officers and others to relieve distress. Agricultural loans and gratuitous relief were promptly supplied by Government, when required; food and medical help by local bodies and local committees; and seeds at reduced prices by the Agriculture Department. With this assistance, people in the affected areas were able to tide over their immediate hardships. Land improvement and agricultural loans to the extent of Rs. 3,72,139 were advanced during the year under report. Owing to the earthquake of January 1934, the town of Darjeeling and the neighbouring villages sustained considerable damage, but the greatest losses were sustained by the more well-to-do. The labouring classes actually benefited by the earthquake, for a great deal of employment was thereby provided for both skilled and unskilled labour. Condition of the agricultural population.

187. The material condition of the people was no better than in the previous year. Though the price of paddy and rice showed some slight rise in the latter part of the year, this did not appreciably improve their condition, in the absence of a rise in the price of jute, which is essentially the money crop of the province. General economic conditions.

The poverty of the agricultural population indirectly affected the non-agricultural sections of the community also. The landless middle classes with fixed incomes were benefited by the cheapness of food and labour, though this was offset by reductions of pay and increased insecurity of employment in trades and professions. Unemployment among the middle classes continued to be a serious problem.

Other Revenue Works.

Land registration.

188. The number of proprietary interests recorded in the land registration registers was 1,074,461 at the beginning of the year under report as against 1,077,847 at its close.

Partition.

189. There were 227 cases pending at the close of the preceding year and 39 cases were instituted during the year under report. Of the 266 cases for disposal, 42 cases were disposed of and 224 cases remained pending at the close of the year. In the district of Mymensingh a special officer was employed on partition work throughout the year. Estates Partition Funds exist in the districts of Mymensingh and Dacca.

Land Acquisition.

190. The total area acquired was 1,380·0836 acres at a total cost of Rs. 1,76,90,871 as against 1,315·8138 acres at Rs. 31,02,029 in the previous year. Of the total area acquired, 1,112·8329 acres were for the purposes of Government including State railways and companies railways provided with land free of cost by Government and 267·2507 acres for all other purposes, as compared with 1,147·9937 and 167·8201 acres, respectively, in the previous year.

Loans: Land Improvement and Agriculturists' Loans Act.

191. The outstanding balance of land improvement loans at the beginning of the year was Rs. 1,13,003 while Rs. 3,250 was advanced during the year. The amounts due for collection during the year on account of principal and interest were Rs. 66,468 and Rs. 12,078, respectively, of which Rs. 22,831 and Rs. 4,198 were collected. The outstanding balance of agricultural loans at the beginning of the year was Rs. 16,60,421 and Rs. 3,68,889 was advanced during the year. The amounts due for collection during the year on account of principal and interest were Rs. 16,51,426 and Rs. 1,19,549, respectively, and Rs. 7,95,215 and Rs. 65,111 were realised.

Waste Lands.

192. No new lease of waste lands was granted in the district of Chittagong during the year under report. In Darjeeling a piece of land measuring 166 acres was settled for the purpose of

horticulture, dairy and poultry farming. In Jalpaiguri an area of 403·32 acres was let out under 35 leases at a total revenue of Rs. 565-13 with provision for enhancement with effect from 1934-35 as a result of revisional settlement. The colonization of the Tengagiri Chowk could not be undertaken owing to financial stringency. An area of 5·3 square miles unsuitable for raiyatwari settlement was settled under Gorkati leases which yielded a revenue of Rs. 1,962. A grazing fee of Rs. 2,145 was derived from an accretion to Tengagiri Chowk, while the parent estate yielded Rs. 1,859 from forest collection as against Rs. 3,394 of the previous year. In connection with the special scheme of raiyatwari settlement of char lands in South Bhola in Bakarganj an area of 528·34 acres was settled during the year under report. The area which has been surveyed but not yet settled is 18,388·42 acres. In Noakhali a raiyatwari settlement of 2,655·55 acres of char lands was concluded at a total rental of Rs. 7,791-10. In Faridpur alluvial formations and town khas mahal lands comprising an area of 2,739·886 acres were settled at a total rental of Rs. 8,829-13 and salami of Rs. 28,695-7. In Tippera the settlement of a big char known as Char Pakshidia was taken up in the year under report to be completed in the succeeding year. The Kodalpur Char settlement which had been pending for some time was concluded during the year under report. Two newly formed chars in Bankura and one in Hooghly were settled during the year. The settlement of the major portion of Char Kantapukur, Block II, and Rupnarain Bahir Char was concluded in the year. In Pabna steps are being taken for the settlement of the char lands on both banks of the river Ichhamati and necessary action has been taken regarding the management of the big char detected in the river Padma.

Government Estates.

193. The total number of estates under direct management, including those belonging to private individuals who have refused to take settlement on the terms offered by Government and excluding numerous small holdings in Calcutta each of which is technically an "estate" as well as the Orphanganj Market and the Hastings estate in the 24-Parganas district, was 3,433, with a total annual demand of Rs. 65,16,512, against 3,168 estates, with an aggregate demand of Rs. 63,40,593 in the preceding year. Agricultural demonstrations were carried out with success in the districts of Jessore, Chittagong, Noakhali, Jalpaiguri, Bogra, Malda and Darjeeling. In Faridpur the fifth batch of five

Number and management.

bhadralog youths were, on the completion of their training in the Faridpur Agricultural Farm, offered lands; but only one of them accepted the offer. In Bakarganj the twenty bhadralog youths mentioned in the last year's report formed a house-building society to construct houses at Char Fasson. As they could not complete the houses, no lands were settled with any of them during the year. In the last year's report, 1,400 acres of char lands were stated to have been settled in Noakhali with educated bhadralog young men under the co-operative and the bhadralog schemes. Subsequently it was found on enquiry that many of them had sublet their lands in contravention of their agreement and hence their leases were cancelled. As a result, only 800 acres of char lands are now settled with bhadralog youths in the district. In Tippera and Pabna also some lands were settled with bhadralog tenants. There were 5,066 schools in Government estates in the province with 181,335 pupils during the year under review against 5,055 schools and 178,179 pupils in the preceding year, showing an increase both in the number of schools and pupils.

Grant for management and improvement.

194. Out of the total grant for the management and improvement of Government estates a sum of Rs. 5,51,938 or 8·36 per cent. of current demand was spent on management and Rs. 1,06,029 or 1·45 per cent. of current demand on improvements against 8·4 per cent. and 1·77 per cent., respectively, during the previous year. Of the sum of Rs. 1,06,029 spent on improvements, Rs. 69,551 was spent on drainage, irrigation and embankments, Rs. 8,418 on tanks and wells, Rs. 21,791 on miscellaneous and agricultural improvements including repairs to roads and bridges, clearing of jungle and agricultural experiments and a sum of Rs. 6,269 was spent on the improvement of *hats* and markets in the Presidency, Dacca, Chittagong and Rajshahi divisions.

Colonisation of the Sunderbans.

195. A solid block of twenty-two villages with an area of 178 square miles is covered by the Bakarganj colonisation scheme now in its twenty-seventh year. No further areas were colonised during the year and the remaining area of 7,249·01 acres remained unsettled. In the 24-Parganas Sunderbans (colonisation of which was in its nineteenth year) no new area was taken up for reclamation. The total sum advanced by Government for reclamation in the 24-Parganas and Bakarganj Sunderbans and the total income derived from these areas up to the end of the year under report were Rs. 29,42,671 and Rs. 38,05,246, respectively. The general health of the people in the Bakarganj Sunderbans area was good and crops were fair, but low prices have greatly affected them owing to the heavy debts they have incurred and also owing

to their habit of cultivating their fields with hired labour. In the 24-Parganas Sunderbans the health of the colonists was good but there was some damage to crops.

Wards and Attached Estates.

196. At the beginning of the year under report the total number of estates under the management of the Court of Wards was 113. Sixteen new estates were brought under the charge of the court and six estates were released during the year. The management of the estate of the Nawab Bahadur of Murshidabad also devolved upon the Court of Wards under Act XXIII of 1933. Thus at the close of the year there were 124 estates under the charge of the Court. Number of estates.

197. The total demand of rent and cesses due to the estates under the management of the Court was Rs. 4,66,14,387 (including an arrear of Rs. 2,91,43,281), of which Rs. 1,50,23,638 or 32·2 per cent. was collected during the year as against 32·6 per cent. in the preceding year. The collections were better in the paddy-growing divisions and districts than in those where jute is the principal money producing crop. Collection of rent and cesses.

198. The outstanding balances of rent and cesses due to all the estates under the management of the Court aggregated Rs. 2,81,82,917 which represented 164·8 per cent. of the current demand as against 158·3 in the preceding year. Balance of rent and cesses due to estates.

199. The total amount of ascertained debts of the Court of Wards estates in the Presidency at the close of the year stood at Rs. 3,24,86,969 against Rs. 2,86,65,578 in the preceding year. The increase is due to the assumption of charge of some new estates with heavy debts, to the discovery of fresh liabilities, and to the addition of unpaid interest. The principal repaid or otherwise reduced was Rs. 9,76,220 and the interest paid or otherwise reduced was Rs. 12,63,543 as compared with Rs. 10,75,935 and Rs. 15,21,108, respectively, in the previous year. Debts of estates.

200. The percentage of the cost of management of the Wards Estates in the whole Presidency on their current rent and cess demand showed a slight increase, being 9·7 against 9·4 in the previous year. The standard aimed at is 10 per cent. Management charges.

201. The standard fixed for minimum expenditure on education and works of improvement in solvent estates are 1 and 3 per cent., respectively, on the current rent and cess demands. The total sum spent during the year under these heads by the estates Improvement.

amounted to Rs. 5,17,302 against Rs. 5,79,935 in the preceding year. The decrease is due to poor collections in almost all the estates.

Revenue and rent paying classes.

Bengal Tenancy Act, the extent of its application.

202. The districts of Darjeeling and the Chittagong Hill Tracts, as well as the town of Calcutta, continued to be outside the scope of the Act, while in the Western Duars portion of the Jalpaiguri district it applied, as before, to a modified extent. The Act operated fully in the rest of the province.

Measures to compel the issue of rent receipts.

203. As in previous years very little use was made by the tenants of the provisions of section 58 of the Act when landlords did not give proper rent receipts.

The Chittagong Hill Tracts.

[Report of the Land Revenue Administration of the Chittagong Hill Tracts for the year 1933-34.]

Land revenue.

204. In the Chittagong Hill Tracts, which are administered under the special Regulation I of 1900, and the rules framed thereunder, the land revenue proper consists of rent from lands settled for plough cultivation, as opposed to the shifting cultivation known as *jhuming*. One hundred and twenty-six amalnamahs of new settlement covering an approximate area of 251·35 acres were issued during the year against 194 covering 384·34 acres in the preceding year. The current demand of land revenue was Rs. 1,59,077 against Rs. 1,55,656 in the previous year. Collection amounted to 39 per cent. of the total demand including arrears for the previous year.

Forest and other revenues.

205. The revenue from the forest reserves as well as from the unclassed State forests increased from Rs. 89,472 to Rs. 1,01,072; and the revenue on the sann grass of the unclassed State forests amounted to Rs. 7,431 against Rs. 8,278 in the preceding year. These do not include the revenue received in the Chittagong Forest division on account of the Chittagong Hill Tracts forests. The collection of *jhum* tax was not satisfactory, being Rs. 16,921 against Rs. 21,314 in the preceding year. Other revenues amounted to Rs. 42,691 against Rs. 37,926 in the preceding year.

Condition of the people.

206. Cultivation and growth of bhadoi crops and the winter rice suffered for want of sufficient rain both for sowing and maturing of the crop. People who only grew crops other than paddy or were engaged in trade, made a slight income by selling

their food grains and were later hard hit for want of funds to purchase food. The price of unginned cotton was between Rs. 3 to Rs. 4 per maund and that of paddy varied from Rs. 25 to Rs. 30 per 100 *aris* as in the preceding year. Public health was not satisfactory. The district was overtaken by two serious epidemics—cholera and smallpox. Out of 397 cholera and 98 smallpox attacks there were 219 and 19 deaths respectively. General notification of epidemic disease was as speedy as local conditions would permit and the medical and vaccination staff took immediate steps to prevent the spread of epidemics.

Myang disease which is contagious, as also leprosy, are spreading very rapidly in this district. Necessary steps are being taken for the eradication of both the diseases.

The prices of paddy and other agricultural produce having remained the same as in the preceding year and large number of plough cattle having been lost on account of cattle disease, the economic condition of the people was seriously affected.

Surveys.

[Report on the Survey Department, Bengal, for the year ending 30th September 1933.]

207. The main traverse programme consisted of the post-pointing traverse of 668 square miles in the upland area in 10 thanas and 53 square miles in the Brahmaputra diara area in one thana of Rangpur district. The 16 inches rectifications supplied by the Indian Air Survey and Transport Limited, as also the photography, were found to be satisfactory. Besides this area a further area of 270 square miles along the banks of Brahmaputra river and 17 square miles in the scattered area of the same district were traversed by ordinary method. Traverse survey was also done over a scattered area of 6½ square miles in the case of partition in Karmi estate of Darjeeling, 1 square mile in police-station Hasnabad of 24-Parganas, 6 square miles in thana Barhan-Uddin of Bakarganj and 5 square miles in thana Chandpur of Tippera district.

Land Records and Settlement.

[Annual Report on the Survey and Settlement Operations in Bengal for the year ending 30th September 1933.]

General.

208. The total area for which a record-of-rights has been completed is 56,336 square miles out of a total area of 65,204 square miles which represents 86·4 per cent. of the area where the provision of the Bengal Tenancy Act is applicable.

Major operations.

209. Major settlement operations were in progress in 6 districts—24-Parganas, Burdwan, Hooghly, Malda, Chittagong and Rangpur. The operations in Burdwan, Hooghly and Rangpur were in full swing and those in 24-Parganas, Malda and Chittagong were in their closing stages.

Burdwan-Hooghly.

210. The programme of this settlement for the year under report consisted of khanapuri and bujharat of 8 square miles in the municipal area of Serampur subdivision, the attestation of 585 square miles, computation and recovery of cost, final mapping, jamabandi and diara resumptions.

The khanapuri and bujharat programme was completed in January 1933. The attestation of 583 square miles was completed by September, the number of interests attested being 418,449 which gives an incidence of 714 interests per square mile. The number of objections filed under section 103A was 26,301, out of which 18,300 were disposed of during the year. Computation of survey and settlement cost of 90 square miles of A block, 168 square miles of B block and 395 square miles of C block was completed. The cost recovered in the period amounted to Rs. 5,58,503-15, of which Rs. 5,33,605-9 was realised by voluntary payment. Resettlement of 22 temporarily settled estates and 9 Government estates of the Burdwan collectorate were completed in the year resulting in an increase of Rs. 1,456 a year in Government revenue. Five resumption and assessment proceedings in respect of the surplus alluvial accretions in the bed of the Damodar river were completed in the year and the work in regard to 32 resumption proceedings in the bed of the rivers Ajoy and Kana, which had been started in the previous year, was in progress. Considerable progress was also made in connection with the resumption of the foreshore lands on the banks of the Hooghly on the Howrah side. Four cases in which the Port Commissioners and the Bengal Nagpur Railway are concerned were under the consideration of Government, while the preliminary reports on the assessment of rents and revenue in ten other cases were pending for the orders of the Board; the proposed revenue in these cases exceeds Rs. 48,495 a year.

Rangpur settlement.

211. The programme of survey during the year covered an area of 1,291 square miles but the actual area surveyed was 320·93 square miles by the ordinary method and 975·21 square miles by survey by aerial photography. This is the largest area that has ever been taken up in one block in one year since settlement operations started in Bengal.

The work of the Air Survey Company proved to be excellent this year also; the photographs as a whole were very

clear, and not a single photo had to be rejected for errors beyond the allowable limits: the quantity of kistwar required on the photographs was in the neighbourhood of 20 per cent. only. Khanapuri was completed before the end of February except in the town of Rangpur where it continued till the third week of March, while in the diara area it continued till the end of May. Bujharat began in January and was completed in an area of 912·50 square miles by the 15th June and the remaining Khanapuried area was left over for bujharat in the following season. The attestation programme which consisted of 389,193 interests of the first cadastral block which remained to be done at the end of the last field season, and 27,559 interests of the diara area, was completed by the beginning of July. The dispute between the Kasimbazar Raj Wards Estate and its jotedars regarding the character of the jotes held up the progress of the work considerably. On examination of the previous history of these jotes the Settlement Officer arrived at the conclusion that the great majority of the jotes are permanent tenures with rents liable to enhancement. The relationship between the landlords and tenants is generally good: abwabs such as the Tahari, Magan, Paikana and Khoraki varying from one anna to four annas are paid by tenants without opposition. The total number of attestation disputes decided during attestation was 16,218 and the number of objections under section 103A, Bengal Tenancy Act, disposed of was 10,180. Resettlement was completed in one estate and work was in progress in 6 others. Besides 4 resumption cases under Regulation II of 1819 pending from the last year, 7 others were drawn up in the year under report. Of these 11 cases, 7 were ultimately dropped and work was in progress in the remaining 4.

24-Parganas.

212. The programme for the year consisted of (1) mapping work, (2) printing, (3) recovery of survey and settlement costs, (4) diara resumptions, (5) jamabandi and (6) case work. All the pending 16 inches, 4 inches and 2 inches mapping was completed by May 1933 and the printing of all the pending records soon after. Out of the total computed demand of Rs. 28,81,212 for this settlement, Rs. 28,26,974 was recovered up to the end of the year, leaving a balance of Rs. 54,238, of which Rs. 21,289 was written off, while the balance of Rs. 32,949 covered by 4,298 certificates, was left pending for recovery by the Collector of the district by execution of the certificates. Five resumption proceedings under Act IX of 1847 were drawn up and completed. As a result of these proceedings during the settlement operations 63 temporarily settled private estates covering an area of 2,142·63 acres have been created bringing in an additional annual revenue of Rs. 13,000. As a result of 4 other resumption proceedings

under Regulation II of 1819, of which one was completed during the year and three in previous years, an additional revenue of Rs. 11,291 per year was secured. Resettlement proceedings in one Government estate, one temporarily settled estate and 18 estates held under the Sundarban Grant Rules of 1853 and 5 estates held under the Rules of 1879 were completed during the year as a result of which Government revenue increased by Rs. 53,444 a year. Of the 21,340 cases under section 105, Bengal Tenancy Act, and 10,629 cases under section 106 which were filed during the course of the operations, cases under section 105 affecting only 46 tenancies and 13 cases under section 106 remained pending at the end of the year, and were made over to the Collector for disposal, the major settlement operation having closed on this date.

Malda.

213. The work done in this settlement during the year consists of jamabandi, diara, printing, final mapping, computation and recovery of settlement costs and case work. Resettlement of 19 estates out of 21 was completed to date resulting in a net increase of revenue of Rs. 795 a year. Out of 23 resumption proceedings drawn up, one was completed in the year and work was in progress in the rest. Six presses were worked in the year printing 152,533 interests of this settlement, 2,518 interests of Bogra minor settlement and 2,000 interests of Pabna settlement. Five hundred and sixty square miles of 16 inches mapping, 510 square miles of 4 inches mapping and 460 square miles of 2 inches mapping were also completed during the year. The recovery programme for the year was Rs. 5,44,800, but the heavy flood in the Mahananda river in the month of July retarded the progress of recovery, as the landlords found it difficult to pay their share of costs, and in consequence in many cases easy instalments had to be allowed. The amount actually recovered was therefore Rs. 3,10,722-5. The number of cases under sections 105 and 106, Bengal Tenancy Act, filed in the first cadastral block was 6,430, of which 1,316 cases were disposed of during the year.

Chittagong.

214. The programme for the year consisted of making over to the Collector the pending records-of-rights, the disposal of a small number of applications under section 115B, Bengal Tenancy Act, and recovery of the outstanding survey and settlement costs. It is most satisfactory to note that out of the total recoverable cost of Rs. 6,03,911, Rs. 6,00,662 has already been recovered and the small balance which is covered by 114 certificates is expected to be recovered in the following year.

Minor operations.

215. Minor settlement operations were carried on during the year in 9 districts—Dacca, Bakarganj, Faridpur, Tippera,

Noakhali, Bogra, Pabna, Jalpaiguri and Midnapore. In Dacca the revised programme consisted of 752 estates (including 26 non-agricultural estates) situated in 34 thanas. Out of these estates, resettlement proceedings in 516 estates have been completed resulting in an increase of Government revenue of Rs. 10,956 a year which represents 18 per cent. of the old revenue; in Bakarganj out of the total number of Government and temporarily settled estates taken up for resettlement 618 estates were completed, securing an increase of revenue of Rs. 3,06,850 which represents 29·9 per cent. of the old revenue, and work in the 5 remaining estates was in progress; in Faridpur the entire programme of resettlement of 290 estates was completed, as a result of which an increase of revenue of Rs. 54,215 a year was secured, while by the resumption and assessment to revenue of certain alluvial accretions in the bed of the Arial Khan river taken up and completed during the year, an increase in revenue of Rs. 1,117 a year was also obtained; in Tippera the resettlement programme consisted of 3 estates pending from the previous year and 5 estates taken up during the year under report, out of which 5 estates were completed resulting in an increase of revenue of Rs. 10,779 a year; in Noakhali the work done during the year was survey of 210 square miles, attestation of 198 square miles and resettlement of the 2 pending estates of A block and 17 out of 48 estates of B block, the resettlement proceedings resulting in an increase of revenue of Rs. 37,895 and a total increase obtained up to the end of the year of Rs. 67,433; in Bogra an increase of Rs. 2,342 a year was secured by resettlement of 26 villages appertaining to Government estate No. 656; in Pabna the work done during the year was (1) demarcation of Government estate Char Kurulia, (2) attestation and janch of the records of the Kurulia group of villages, (3) disposal of 782 objections under section 103A, Bengal Tenancy Act, (4) disposal of 7,962 objections under setion 104E, Bengal Tenancy Act, and (5) settlement of land revenue of 45 out of 84 square miles which constituted the programme of the settlement and which resulted in an increase in revenue of Rs. 19,648 a year.

Jalpaiguri.

216. The programme for the year consisted of (1) attestation of the draft records prepared in the previous year, (2) bujharat and attestation of the remaining area, not taken up in the previous year, (3) disposal of objections under section 103A, Bengal Tenancy Act, and final janch of the records of the entire area, (4) drawing up of preliminary assessment reports of 5 estates under operation and (5) fair rent settlement of Ambari Falakata Tahsil. The entire programme was completed in time. As a result of resettlement of Ambari Falakata Tahsil an increase of revenue of

Rs. 5,324 a year was secured. The Settlement Department also took up and concluded during the year resettlement of 7 tea estates covering an area of 21 square miles. The total number of tea grants resettled since October 1930 is 67 and the total increase in revenue is Rs. 84,096.

Midnapore.

217. The programme of this settlement was the revisional survey, the revision of record-of-rights and the resettlement of land revenue of 126 Government and 44 temporarily settled estates covering an area of 562 square miles. The work up to the stage of bujharat was completed in time in respect of the whole of this area.

CHAPTER V.

Revenue and Finance.

Financial position of Bengal.

218. In his budget speech on the 21st February in the Legislative Council, the Finance Member, Sir John Woodhead, began by observing that the year disclosed no improvement in the immediate financial position of the province. Judged by the figures of the budget estimates, the financial position was worse instead of better, and but for the hope that the claim of the province to a revision of the existing financial settlement would be conceded the outlook was one of the utmost gravity.

The following statements give the figures for the past two years of Central and Provincial expenditure, as well as the capital expenditure on State Railways, Irrigation Works and Civil Works not charged to Revenue, but excluding Central expenditure on such heads as Army, and Posts and Telegraphs.

Provincial Revenue and Finance, 1933-34.

Statement of Receipts.

[Figures are in thousands.]

Heads.	Actuals, 1932-33.	Budget, 1933-34.	Actuals, 1933-34.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
III—Salt	6,04	5,50	2,12
V—Land Revenue	3,00,06	3,12,38	3,21,14
VI—Excise	1,40,32	1,39,00	1,34,06
VII—Stamps	3,13,01	2,85,50	2,87,14
VIII—Forest	15,12	15,50	15,03
IX—Registration	18,47	19,09	19,67
IXA—Scheduled taxes	11,30	11,80	11,22
XII—Subsidised companies ..	81	30	28
XIII—Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage works for which capital accounts are kept	—4,41	—1,86	—3,04
XIV—Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage works for which no capital accounts are kept	2,11	1,79	1,71
XVI—Interest	6,18	4,31	5,42
XVII—Administration of Justice ..	14,51	13,91	13,23
XVIII—Jails and convict settlements ..	6,75	7,90	7,47

[Figures are in thousands.]

Heads.	Actuals, 1932-33.	Budget, 1933-34.	Actuals, 1933-34.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
XIX—Police	11,35	10,93	11,18
XX—Ports and Pilotage	76	91	90
XXI—Education	13,56	13,52	13,57
XXII—Medical	10,40	10,25	8,35
XXIII—Public Health	1,28	1,38	1,23
XXIV—Agriculture	6,30	6,21	6,03
XXV—Industries	7,12	8,03	9,23
XXVI—Miscellaneous departments ..	15,63	13,56	12,38
XXX—Civil works	15,76	14,38	12,49
XXXII—Transfer from Famine Relief Fund	48	56	10
XXXIII—Receipts in aid of superannuation	1,30	1,28	1,22
XXIV—Stationery and Printing ..	4,94	5,25	4,89
XXXV—Miscellaneous	14,72	9,14	7,40
XXXIXA—Miscellaneous adjustments between Central and Provincial Governments	2,14	..	..
XL—Extraordinary Receipts ..	2,10	1,09	85
Receipts in England	—8	1	1
Total Revenue Receipts ..	9,38,03	9,11,53	9,05,78
Transfer from Famine Relief Fund	..	..	..
Famine Relief Fund	64	57	68
Deposit Account—Imperial Council of Agricultural Research	49	49	65
Deposit account of the grant made by the Indian Central Cotton Committee	..	..	1
Depreciation Reserve—Government Presses ..	1,16	1,00	1,05
Advances from Provincial Loans Fund, Government of India	14,83	22,53	20,06
	99,47	2,09,66	1,56,02
Appropriation for reduction or avoidance of debt	8,66	9,30	38
Subvention from Central Road Development Account	22,55	13,70	12,49
Suspense	5,87	5,30	5,69
Recoveries of loans and advances by the Government of Bengal	20,70	15,92	11,77
Total receipts on capital account ..	1,74,37	2,78,47	2,08,80
Total ..	11,12,40	11,90,00	11,14,58
Opening balance in Famine Relief Fund ..	12,78	12,78	12,93
Other opening balances	78	..	33
Total Opening balance ..	13,56	12,78	13,26
Grand Total ..	11,25,96	12,02,78	11,27,84

Statement of Expenditure.

[Figures are in thousands).

Heads.	Actuals, 1932-33.	Budget, 1933-34.	Actuals, 1933-34.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
5—Land Revenue	37,77	40,23	37,34
6—Excise	17,00	17,77	17,54
7—Stamps..	4,61	4,82	4,30
8—Forest	14,48	15,84	14,19
8A—Forest—Capital outlay charged to revenue ..	61	48	23
9—Registration	17,47	18,32	17,51
9A—Scheduled Taxes	15	5	5
14—Interest on works for which capital accounts are kept	18,04	18,81	18,10
15—Irrigation—Other revenue expenditure financed from ordinary revenue ..	10,69	14,68	12,95
15(f)—Irrigation—Other revenue expenditure financed from Famine Relief Grants ..	..	..	..
16—Construction of Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage works ..	3	—1	2
19—Interest on ordinary debt	4,81	11,04	9,77
20—Interest on other obligations	2	3	7
21—Reduction or avoidance of debt ..	8,66	9,30	38
22—General Administration	1,17,12	1,22,49	1,21,54
24—Administration of Justice	94,14	98,14	96,56
25—Jails and Convict Settlement	40,40	50,01	43,49
26—Police	2,19,47	2,27,37	2,22,71
27—Ports and Pilotage	4,64	4,78	4,61
30—Scientific Departments	29	30	28
31—Education (Reserved)	11,96	12,54	12,06
31—Education (Transferred)	1,14,32	1,15,75	1,14,43
32—Medical	48,36	50,71	48,79
33—Public Health	36,84	39,77	37,36
34—Agriculture	23,51	24,83	23,75
35—Industries	10,96	12,05	11,67
37—Miscellaneous Departments	2,03	2,01	2,02
41—Civil works	76,24	81,35	76,20
43—Famine Relief	48	56	10
45—Superannuation allowances and pensions ..	52,14	53,60	55,52
45A—Commutation of pensions financed from ordinary revenue	3,28	..	..
46—Stationery and Printing	18,64	20,52	19,04
47—Miscellaneous	18,30	21,29	19,21
52—Extraordinary charges	..	..	..
Expenditure in England	40,36	41,20	39,92
Total expenditure from ordinary revenue	10,67,82	11,30,63	10,81,71

[Figures are in thousands.]

	Actuals, 1932-33.	Budget, 1933-34.	Actuals, 1933-34.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
52A—Forest capital outlay not charged to revenue —In England	..	..	..
55—Construction of Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works (not charged to revenue)—			
In India	13,11	13,24	9,04
In England	..	20	..
60—Civil works not charged to revenue—			
In India	1,05	1,80	1,46
In England	..	..	..
60B—Commuted value of pensions (not charged to revenue)	..	6,50	4,23
Famine Relief Fund	48	56	10
Deposit Account—Imperial Council of Agricultural Research	52	49	59
Depreciation Reserve—Government Presses ..	13	1,41	1,35
Repayment to the Government of India of advances from Provincial Loans Fund ..	8,66	9,30	38
Subvention from Central Road Development Account	10,29	8,64	5,94
Suspense	5,90	5,20	5,68
Loans and advances by the Government of Bengal	4,74	12,02	3,85
Total expenditure on capital accounts ..	44,88	59,36	32,62
Total expenditure	11,12,70	11,89,99	11,14,33
Closing balance in Famine Relief Fund ..	12,93	12,79	13,51
Other closing balances	33	..	..
Total closing balance	13,26	12,79	13,51
Grand Total ..	11,25,96	12,02,78	11,27,84

Fall in revenue.

219. The unremunerative prices received by the cultivators for their produce prevented any recovery in the main heads of receipts of the province. The estimated yield in 1933-34 from the five main heads of revenue, viz., "Land Revenue," "Excise," "Stamps," "Forests" and "Registration," was only Rs. 763½ lakhs, a figure lower than that for the year 1932-33 by Rs. 23½ lakhs, and no less than Rs. 241¾ lakhs below the receipts for the year 1929-30, the year immediately preceding the onset of the present trade depression.

Increased expenditure on subversive movements.

220. The main feature of the budget was the heavy additional expenditure thrown on the revenues of the province by the civil disobedience and terrorist movements during these years when the revenue position demands that every economy should be made. In the year 1933-34 the expenditure according to the

revised estimate was Rs. 53¼ lakhs, and the budget for 1934-35 made provision for Rs. 52 lakhs. The figures for the years 1931-32 and 1932-33 are Rs. 21½ lakhs and Rs. 47 lakhs, respectively, and by the close of the year 1934-35 the promoters of anarchy will have involved the province in expenditure amounting to Rs. 173¾ lakhs. There appears to be little hope that this burden will be reduced substantially in the immediate future.

Retrenchment.

221. A statement incorporating the decisions of Government up to 31st January 1934 on the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee showed an ultimate saving as a result of the decisions taken of Rs. 40½ lakhs. In comparison with the figures of expenditure for the year 1929-30, and after allowing for the emergency cut in pay, the additional expenditure thrown on the province by the terrorist movement, and certain other adjustments which are necessary in order to get a true comparison, expenditure in the year 1933-34 shows a reduction of expenditure of no less than Rs. 94¾ lakhs. In addition, work on the preparation of revised scales of pay for the large majority of services and posts under the rule-making power of the Local Government was completed during the year, and the new scales of pay were brought into effect from the 1st April 1934.

Provincial finance for 1933-34.

222. The year 1932-33 ended with a deficit of Rs. 99,47,000 after providing for a closing balance of Rs. 12,93,000 for the Famine Relief Fund. The estimates and actuals for 1933-34 are as follows:—

	Sanctioned Estimate.	Actuals.
	Rs.	Rs.
Opening balance	12,78,000	13,26,000
Receipts on revenue account	9,11,53,000	9,05,78,000
Receipts on capital account	68,81,000	52,78,000
Loans from Provincial Loans Fund to meet deficit ..	2,09,66,000	1,56,02,000

The actual opening balance of Rs. 13,26,000 was better by Rs. 48,000 than the original estimated opening balance, but Rs. 13,51,000 had to be earmarked at the end of the year in the closing balance for the Famine Relief Fund against the estimate of Rs. 12,79,000. The actual receipts, which amounted to Rs. 9,58,56,000 excluding the opening balance fell short of estimate by Rs. 21,78,000 but a reduction of Rs. 75,66,000 was effected in the estimate of expenditure, resulting in an actual deficit of Rs. 1,56,02,000 in the year's working, which had to be met by borrowing.

An event of great financial importance to the province occurred at the close of the year, when the Central Government and Legislature decided, subject to a certain condition, to vote to Bengal, for the year 1934-35, a grant equal to half the net proceeds of the export duty on jute produced within her boundaries. The amount of this grant was estimated at Rs. 167 lakhs and, in order to enable the centre to pay it, an excise duty was imposed on matches. The condition attached to the grant was that it should not be paid unless the Government of India were satisfied that the Bengal Government and Legislature were doing all that was possible to help themselves.

The revenue receipts reached a new low level during the year. The failure of receipts to reach the figure estimated occurred mainly under the following heads:—

(*a*) "Salt and Excise"—Rs. 8,32,000; due to reduction of the rate duty on foreign salt and general economic depression respectively.

(*b*) "Appropriation for reduction or avoidance of debt"—Rs. 8,92,000; owing to the postponement, as a measure of temporary relief, of the repayments of instalments of principal of advances made from the Provincial Loans Fund.

(*c*) "Recoveries of loans and advances by the Government of *Bengal*"—Rs. 4,15,000; because the New Howrah *Bridge Commissioners* repaid in March 1933 a loan *of Rs. 2,75,000* which was expected to be paid in 1933-*34, and because recoveries on account* of loans to local bodies and agriculturists were smaller than anticipated.

The continued fall in the revenue from Excise is one of the most disturbing features of the revenue position, the excise revenue having fallen by nearly one crore of rupees since 1929-30. An improvement of Rs. 8 lakhs has been allowed for during the current year over the actuals of 1933-34.

The fall in total revenue would have been larger but for the improved collections of land revenue, due mainly to the collection of arrears. The improvement under this head was over Rs. 21 lakhs. There was however a fall of over Rs. 25 lakhs in the receipts from stamps, and a total fall of receipts from the previous year's figures of over Rs. 32 lakhs.

The total expenditure from ordinary revenue was lower than the budget estimate by nearly Rs. 49 lakhs. This decrease was shared by all heads except "Superannuation allowances and

pensions," under which there was an increase of nearly Rs. 3½ lakhs over the previous year's figures: this increase is, of course, automatic. The main savings as compared with the sanctioned estimate occurred under the following heads. The balance was due to general economising throughout the budget:—

	Rs.
5—Land Revenue	2,89,000
21—Reduction or avoidance of debt ..	8,92,000
25—Jails and convict settlements	6,52,000
26—Police	4,66,000
33—Public Health	2,41,000
41—Civil works	5,15,000
47—Miscellaneous	2,08,000

"*5—Land Revenue.*"—The original estimate provided as in the past for payment to the District Boards of road and public works cesses on account of Government estates on the basis of the demand statement. During the course of the year, however, it was decided to pay to the Boards only the actual amount of cesses collected.

"*21—Reduction or avoidance of debt.*"—The savings were due to the postponement, as a temporary measure, of the repayment of instalments of principal of advances made from the Provincial Loans Fund.

"*25—Jails and convict settlements*" and "*26—Police.*"—The requirements of the Jail Department proved happily to be smaller than was anticipated at the time of budgeting.

"*35—Public Health.*"—Non-utilisation in full of the provision for the Bagerhat water-supply scheme, the Bhatpara sewerage scheme and the Public Health units, mainly accounts for the savings.

"*41—Civil works.*"—Inability to work up to the budget programme for improvement of roads out of the provisions from the Road Development Fund chiefly accounts for the savings.

"*47—Miscellaneous.*"—Provision for augmented garrisons in the districts and for the maintenance of detenus, which it was difficult to gauge accurately, eventually proved excessive. Savings on these accounts as well as the non-utilisation in full of the reserve of Rs. 40,000 mainly account for the savings.

Against the sanctioned estimate of Rs. 59,36,000 under "Capital account," the actual expenditure amounted to Rs. 32,62,000, leaving a saving of Rs. 26,74,000. The greater part of the savings were due to the postponment of the repayment of instalments of principal of advances made from Provincial Loans Fund and to a decision of the Commissioners for the Old and

New Howrah Bridges not to take loans which they anticipated would be required when the original budget estimate was framed. Smaller expenditure under the head "Subvention from Central Road Development account" and on the construction of the Damodar Canal accounted for most of the rest.

The increase in the figures of actual expenditure from ordinary revenue from Rs. 10,67,82,000 in 1932-33 to Rs. 10,81,71,000 in 1933-34 is mainly accounted for by the reduction in the rate of emergency cut in pay from 10 per cent. to 5 per cent. for eleven out of the twelve months of the financial year under review.

Imperial Revenue and Finance, 1933-34.

Receipt.

223. The total revenue for the year 1933-34 from central heads amounted to Rs. 19,26,41,000 against the actuals of Rs. 21,80,56,000 in 1932-33 (as shown in the statement below). Decreases occurred chiefly under the heads "Customs," "Taxes on income" and "Ports and pilotage." The fall in revenue under the first named head is due partly to the advances made by local industries, fostered by protective duties, resulting in a fall in customs duty; and partly to economic depression. The fall in revenue under the head "Income tax" is chiefly attributable to depression in trade and industry, and increase in unemployment. Trade depression also accounts for the fall in receipts under the head "Ports and pilotage." The decrease in the revenue account would have been larger but for larger collection of rents from Government buildings credited to the head "Civil works."

IMPERIAL REVENUE AND FINANCE, 1933-34.

Receipts.

[Figures are in thousands.]

Major heads.	Actuals, 1932-33.	Actuals, 1933-34.
	Rs.	Rs.
I—Customs	14,32,08	12,80,99
II—Taxes on income	4,39,80	3,70,19
III—Salt	2,75,16	2,39,88
X—Payments from Indian States	68	68
XVI—Interest	10,26	10,19
XVII—Administration of Justice	..	3
XX—Ports and Pilotage	17,21	16,62
XXIII—Public Health	22	15
XXVI—Miscellaneous Departments	1,20	1,21
XXVII—Currency	10	11
XXX—Civil Works	1,09	4,04
XXXII—Receipts in aid of Superannuation ..	1,91	1,95
XXXV—Miscellaneous	85	37
Total ..	21,80,56	19,26,41

Expenditure.

[Figures are in thousands.]

	Actuals. 1932-23.	Actuals. 1933-34.
	Rs.	Rs.
1—Customs	18,63	19,40
2—Taxes on income	11,60	11,77
3—Salt	2,89	2,87
19—Interest on ordinary debt	17,22	15,61
20—Interest on other obligations	22,43	23,07
22—General Administration	19	20
23—Audit	8,05	8,61
24—Administration of Justice	34	38
26—Police	95	94
27—Ports and Pilotage	11,99	11,71
28—Ecclesiastical	1,60	1,66
29—Political	87	72
33—Public Health	93	5
37—Miscellaneous Departments	1,26	66
41—Civil Works	7,11	8,42
44—Territorial and Political pensions	6,37	6,36
45—Superannuation allowances and pensions	20,72	24,50
46—Stationery and Printing	1	2
47—Miscellaneous	4,67	7
51A—Miscellaneous adjustments between Central and Provincial Governments	2,14	..
52—Extraordinary charges	97	56
61—Payments to retrenched personnel	30	4
Total ..	1,41,24	1,37,62

224. The expenditure under central heads during 1933-34 amounted to Rs. 1,37,62,000, against the actuals of Rs. 1,41,24,000 in the previous year. The savings occurred mainly under the following heads:— Expenditure.

(1) "19—Interest on ordinary debt", due mainly to the conversion of loans taken by the Central Government to loans on lower rates of interest.

(2) "37—Miscellaneous Departments", due to the abolition of the Census Department.

(3) In 1932-33, Rs. 4,61,000 and Rs. 2,14,000 were adjusted under the heads "47—Miscellaneous" and "51-A—Miscellaneous adjustments between Central and Provincial Governments" on account of arrear leave salaries and pensionary charges, respectively, payable to the Government of Bengal. Absence of any such adjustments in 1933-34 accounts for the decrease in expenditure in the year under report.

The savings in total expenditure would have been larger but for increased expenditure under the following heads:—

(1) "1—Customs", due to reduction of the emergency cut in pay from 10 per cent. to 5 per cent. and to larger expenditure on "overtime" and "holiday allowances".

(2) "20—Interest on other obligations", due to larger payment of interest on the General Provident Fund.

(3) "41—Civil works", due to reconstruction of the suspension bridge over Rung Rung Chu on Lachu Road and to larger expenditure on repairs to Government buildings and increased establishment charges.

(4) "45—Superannuation allowances and pensions", due mainly to the increase in the number of pensioners.

Excise.

Excise Licensing Boards and Advisory Committee.

225. During the year Licensing Board functioned in respect of number and location of shops for the retail sale of excisable articles and opium in all the districts of the Presidency except Darjeeling where the Excise Advisory Committee was in force. They worked satisfactorily.

Revenue.

226. The total excise revenue fell from Rs. 1,40,59,029 to Rs. 1,34,63,186, i.e., 13·95 per cent., the decrease being under almost all the heads. The largest decrease amounting to Rs. 4,17,114 occurred under "Total receipts from country spirit" followed by Rs. 3,15,412 under "Total receipts from opium", Rs. 2,33,818 under "Total receipts from hemp drugs", Rs. 1,64,231 under "Receipts from country fermented liquors—Pachwai". There was, however, an increase of Rs. 3,47,870 under the head "Duty on wines and spirits manufactured in India and classed as foreign liquors", Rs. 1,31,830 under "Miscellaneous receipts", Rs. 91,095 under "Duty on spirits and absolute alcohol and for medicinal purposes." The incidence of excise revenue per head of population was 4 annas and 3 pies against 4 annas 6 pies in the previous year.

Country spirit.

227. The total number of licences for the retail sale of country spirit was 903 against 909 in the preceding year. Consumption decreased in all the districts except Birbhum, Murshidabad, Mymensingh and Tippera where the consumption increased by 175, 251, 1,568 and 705 L.P. gallons, respectively. Noticeable decrease took place in the districts of Howrah, Burdwan, Jessore, Hooghly, Malda, Rangpur, Khulna, Bogra, Noakhali, 24-Parganas and Calcutta. The chief cause of this fall in consumption was the

low price level of agricultural produce, which, together with general trade depression, reduced the purchasing power of the consumer and at the same time made it more profitable to indulge in illicit distillation, owing to the low cost of raw materials for the manufacture of spirit.

Tari.

228. Licences for the retail vend of fermented tari were settled by auction in the tree-tax as well as in other areas of the Presidency. The tree-tax system of taxation which remained in force in the districts of Calcutta, 24-Parganas, Hooghly and Howrah, contributed 51 per cent. of the total revenue from tari in the Presidency. The total number of retail tari licences fell from 467 to 460. The total revenue for the year amounted to Rs. 6,95,960 against Rs. 6,87,083 in the previous year. The increase is in the receipts under "Tree-tax" paid by shop licensees as well as domestic consumers in the tree-tax areas.

Pachwai.

229. The total number of pachwai licences issued was 60,270 against 62,357 in 1932-33. The revenue in licence fees from retail vend shops fell from Rs. 10,19,559 to Rs. 8,57,261. The decrease was marked in Burdwan, Birbhum, Hooghly, Midnapore and Bankura districts. In all these districts the decrease in revenue was due to fall in consumption owing to the same causes that affected the sale of country spirit.

Foreign liquor.

230. The total number of licences issued for "Trade" and "Public vend of potable foreign liquor" was 6,103 against 1,932 in the preceding year. The increase was due to the issue of an unusually large number of special late closing licences in Calcutta for the purpose of dances and cabaret entertainments organised by hotels and restaurants. The total receipts from licence fees decreased from Rs. 4,16,119 to Rs. 4,08,374.

Ganja.

231. The total number of licences issued for the retail sale of ganja was 1,222 against 1,214 in 1932-33. The total receipts amounted to Rs. 26,30,952 against Rs. 28,44,438 in the preceding year, the net decreases amounting to Rs. 2,13,486. The total quantity of ganja consumed was 889 maunds against 943 maunds in 1932-33. The consumption fell in all the districts except Dacca, Mymensingh, Tippera, Rajshahi, Bogra, Pabna and Darjeeling, where the consumption increased by 7, 57, 5, 2, 9, 4 and 7 seers, respectively, over the consumption of the previous year.

Bhang.

232. The total quantity of bhang consumed amounted to 243 maunds against 263 maunds in 1932-33. The total revenue from licence fees and duty amounted to Rs. 1,16,043 as compared with Rs. 1,23,161 in the preceding year, showing a decrease of Rs. 7,118.

Charas.

233. The total number of licences issued for retail sale of charas was 34 against the same number in the previous year and the total revenue amounted to Rs. 1,37,166 as compared with Rs. 1,50,380 in 1932-33.

Opium.

234. The total quantity of opium consumed fell from 737 maunds to 678 maunds and the total receipt from Rs. 38,18,761 to Rs. 35,03,349. The decrease in consumption was largely due to depression of trade and to the low price level of commodities in general, while the retail price of opium remained relatively high.

Four hundred and sixty-four licences were issued during the year to chemists and druggists for the sale of cocaine against 461 in 1932-33. Ninety-four permits for the possession of cocaine were issued free to managers of hospitals or dispensaries not under Government supervision. Fifty-five permits were issued to qualified medical practitioners and dentists. The total number of arrests for illicit sale or possession of cocaine was 25 against 32 in the previous year. The total quantity of cocaine seized in Bengal was 581 ounces as compared with 1,252 ounces in the previous year. Of the total quantity seized during the year, 476 ounces, were seized by the Customs Detective staff on board the vessels and in the jetties in the port of Calcutta, 19 ounces by the Excise staff and 86 ounces by the Police in Calcutta.

Excise offences.

235. The total number of persons prosecuted and convicted on charges under the Excise and Opium laws was 15,338 and 12,999, respectively, against 11,782 and 10,448 in the previous year.

Salt.

[Salt Administration Report, 1933-34.]

Imports.

236. The total quantity of salt imported into Bengal was 12,328,620 maunds as against 15,625,044 maunds in the previous year, showing a decrease of 21·09 per cent. Calcutta received 11,390,475 maunds or 92·39 per cent., and Chittagong 938,145 maunds or 7·61 per cent., of the whole; the percentages for 1932-33, were 91·53 per cent. and 8·47 per cent., respectively.

Consumption and prices.

237. The total quantity of salt which passed into consumption from Calcutta and Chittagong during the year was 14,695,192 maunds against 13,764,521 maunds in the previous year. The average wholesale price per maund inclusive of duty was ten pies less than in the previous year. The average wholesale price of Liverpool salt per 100 maunds in Calcutta was Rs. 56 against Rs. 62 in the previous year, while that of Port Said salt in Chittagong was Rs. 52 against Rs. 58.

Income-tax.

238. The trade depression of the year 1931-32 continued with unabated intensity during the year 1932-33, the income of which was brought under assessment during the year now under review and the world-wide depression coupled with the uncertainty of certain foreign exchanges materially affected the normal course of trade and the result, as was inevitable, was reflected in the returns of income submitted for assessment during the year.

There was a marked fall in the value of foreign exports and the jute mills, which handle and manufacture what is ordinarily Bengal's most paying export products, by agreement worked short hours for the whole of the year. The marked fall in the price of all important commodities including cotton and woollen goods, tea and jute is responsible for the fall in the revenue. The recent tea export restriction scheme improved the condition of that industry towards the end of the year but the results of this restriction will be appreciated only in the incomes to be assessed in 1934-35 and later years. There was a slight improvement in the year in insurance, coal mining and sugar refining and particularly noticeable is the improvement in the tobacco business which helped to a considerable extent to make up the deficiency caused by the slump in other business.

The outlying districts of the province are almost entirely agricultural and the agriculturist was very badly hit by the continued low price of agricultural produce. This in its turn had its repercussions on the general trade of the districts and particularly on the business of the money-lenders who in rural areas were able to collect only a nominal percentage of interest due.

The assessed income for the year under review was Rs. 26,84,37,764 against Rs. 29,91,83,751 of last year. The basic figure of 1920-21 as revised up to March 1934 is Rs. 62,61,75,536. The assessed income for 1933-34 being far below the basic figure, the Local Government derives no benefit from Devolution Rule 15.

The Indian Finance Act for the year 1933 continued the "summary procedure" for the assessments of lower grade incomes between Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 1,999 but effected a reduction in the rate of income-tax on income between Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 1,500. The summary procedure brought in a revenue of Rs. 9,51,690 and the surcharge Rs. 73,32,241 as compared with Rs. 10,72,678 and Rs. 82,76,465, respectively, in the previous year. The total net collections from all sources of income in the year under report were Rs. 2,54,06,262 as income-tax and Rs. 1,01,78,530 as super-tax, as compared with Rs. 2,92,74,463 and Rs. 1,35,77,071;

respectively, in the previous year. Other statistics will be found in the returns submitted by the Commissioner of Income-tax, Bengal, to the Central Board of Revenue.

Stamps.

[Annual statistics of the Stamps Department for the year 1933-34.]

Revenue and charges.

239. The total receipts under the Stamp and Court-fees Acts amounted to Rs. 2,93,54,114 during the year, showing a decrease of Rs. 26,61,352 or 8·31 per cent. on those of 1932-33. As compared with the receipts of 1932-33, there was a decrease of Rs. 32,68,435 in the receipts on account of judicial stamps. The receipts from non-judicial stamps however showed an increase. The total charges during the year were Rs. 10,71,303 against Rs. 11,81,784 of the previous year.

Judicial stamps.

240. The sale-proceeds of court-fee stamps (excluding stamps for copies) fell from Rs. 2,41,88,510 in 1932-33 to Rs. 2,09,56,904 in 1933-34. Decreases occurred in all districts but eight, viz., Hooghly, Mymensingh, Faridpur, Tippera, Rajshahi, Bogra, Pabna and Malda. The most marked decrease (Rs. 29,38,329) occurred in Calcutta and it is explained by the fact that in the previous year, a very large amount was realised on account of probate duty from a few big estates.

Non-Judicial stamps.

241. The revenue derived from the sale of non-judicial stamps rose from Rs. 71,32,658 in the previous year to Rs. 77,50,632 in 1933-34. There was an increase in revenue from non-judicial stamps in 24-Parganas, Calcutta, Khulna, Dacca, Mymensingh, Faridpur, Tippera and in all the districts of the Rajshahi Division except Dinajpur and Rangpur. The remaining districts showed a decline in revenue owing to general economic depression. There was an increase of Rs. 6,28,831 in receipts in Calcutta and the net increase for the province was Rs. 6,17,974.

Sale of stamps.

242. The number of licensed stamp vendors was 4,608 and the amount of discount allowed to them was Rs. 2,65,628, during the year as against 4,905 and Rs. 2,68,102, respectively, during last year.

Deficient duty.

243. The total number of cases in which deficient duty and penalty were levied by Civil Courts under section 35 of Act II of 1899 increased from 1,356 in 1932-33 to 1,508 in 1933-34, and the amount of duty and penalty realised in these cases from Rs. 12,853 to Rs. 13,018. The number of cases dealt with by Revenue Courts under sections 32, 37, 40 and 41 of the Act and the amount of duty and penalty realised on account of the same increased also from 1,789 to 1,890 and from Rs. 52,502 to Rs. 2,04,468, respectively, during the year.

Prosecution under the Stamp Act.

244. The number of cases instituted for infringement of the provisions of the Stamp Act was 462 against 430 in the previous year. Of the 470 persons brought to trial, 455 were convicted, the corresponding figures for the previous year being 444 and 443. The fines imposed fell from Rs. 4,712 to Rs. 3,956 and the amount of rewards paid to informers decreased from Rs. 2,747 to Rs. 2,392.

Working of section 19H of the Court fees Act.

245. Of the cases of valuation of estates for issue of probates and letters of administration reported during 1933-34 including those pending at the beginning of the year, complete enquiries were made into 70·8 per cent. against 65·7 per cent. in the previous year. The proportion of the deficit duty to the amount originally realised was 26·9 per cent., against 23·5 per cent. in the previous year.

Road and Public Work Cesses.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration for the year 1933-34.]

Rate.

246. Except in the districts of Khulna, Pabna, Bogra and Chittagong, the road and public works cess continued to be levied during the year under review at the maximum rate of one anna in the rupee on the valuation of lands and immovable properties. In the districts of Khulna, Pabna and Bogra, the cesses were levied at 9 pies and in the district of Chittagong at 10½ pies in the rupee. The Chittagong Hill Tracts are exempt from the operation of the Cess Act. The valuation of gross rental, on which cesses were assessed amounted to Rs. 16,74,88,223 against the current land revenue demand of Rs. 3,07,91,739. The proportion of land revenue to rental works out at 18·3 per cent.

Demands and collections.

247. The total cess demand during the year was Rs. 1,51,04,302 the current demand being Rs. 91,61,634 against Rs. 93,05,325 of the previous year. Thus taking into consideration the demands in Parts II (*b*), II (*c*) and Part III estates there was a net decrease of Rs. 1,43,691 in the current demand. This decrease was mainly brought about by the decrease in the rate of cesses in the districts of Khulna, Pabna, Bogra and Chittagong and would have been more marked but for the noticeable increase in the districts of Birbhum (Rs. 10,359), Nadia (Rs. 4,599), Murshidabad (Rs. 45,380) and Faridpur (Rs. 45,998). The percentage of total collections on current demand of all classes of estates rose to 90·89 from 86·70 in the preceding year. The percentage of outstanding balance on the total demand rose to 43·31 from 42·07 in the previous year. The percentage of total collections on the current demand exceeded the standard of 100 per cent. in the districts of Midnapore, Nadia and Bogra. In the remaining districts it varied from 63·2 to 98·80 per cent.

Working of the certificate procedure.

248. The total number of certificates filed for the recovery of cesses was 53,162 against 55,818 in the preceding year. Including the certificates pending from the previous year the total number of certificates for disposal came to 97,582, of which 53,284 were disposed of and 44,298 left pending at the close of the year.

Valuation and revaluation.

249. Revaluation operations were in progress in the districts of Birbhum, Midnapore, Bakarganj and Chittagong. The revision of assessment on coal mines in Birbhum and Burdwan and certain Gazari forests in the districts of Dacca and Mymensingh was made as usual under Chapter V of the Cess Act.

CHAPTER VI.

I—Legislative authorities.

250. No change.

II—Course of Legislation.

251. (*a*) Nineteen Acts were passed by the Bengal Legislative Council during the year 1933-34. Acts passed.

(*i*) The Bengal Suppression of Immoral Traffic Act, 1933 (Bengal Act VI of 1933), to provide for the suppression of traffic in women and girls for immoral purposes.

(*ii*) The Bengal Money-Lenders Act, 1933 (Bengal Act VII of 1933), to check usury and to give additional powers to civil courts to protect debtors from extortionate money-lending transactions.

(*iii*) The Bengal Embankment (Amendment) Act, 1933 (Bengal Act VIII of 1933), to prevent an anomaly in section 76 of the parent Act so as to avoid delay in executing repairs to breaches in embankments.

(*iv*) The Bengal Municipal (Amendment) Act, 1933 (Bengal Act IX of 1933), to remedy certain defects in the parent Act of 1932 so as to enable the work of certain municipalities to be carried on and also to make clear what are the qualifications of certain voters at the first general election.

(*v*) The Bengal Places of Public Amusement Act, 1933 (Bengal Act X of 1933), to provide for the better control of fun-fairs and similar places of public amusement and for the prevention of gambling in such places.

(*vi*) The Calcutta Municipal (Amendment) Act, 1933 (Bengal Act XI of 1933), to prevent employment of persons convicted of offences against the State in the Calcutta Corporation, and to introduce the system of disallowance and surcharge to prevent illegal sanctions by the Corporation.

(*vii*) The Licensed Warehouse and Fire-Brigade (Amendment) Act, 1934 (Bengal Act I of 1934), to raise licence fees to the maximum limit as prescribed in section 10 of the parent Act.

(*viii*) The Land Acquisition (Bengal Amendment) Act, 1934 (Bengal Act II of 1934), to remove a difficulty arising as to the correct interpretation of section 3 (*d*) of the parent Act so as to afford some relief to District Judges in respect of the functions under the Land Acquisition Act, 1894.

(*ix*) The Bengal Public Demands Recovery (Amendment) Act, 1934 (Bengal Act III of 1934), to facilitate the execution of certificates in districts other than those in which they are filed.

(*x*) The Calcutta Port (Amendment) Act, 1934 (Bengal Act IV of 1934), to enable the Trust to raise short-term loans which might at a later date be converted into other short-term loans bearing a lower rate of interest and to remove certain difficulties in connection with the sinking funds maintained by the Trust for the repayment of their loans.

(*xi*) The Cattle-Trespass (Bengal Amendment) Act, 1934 (Bengal Act V of 1934), to give power to the District Magistrate to appoint Union Board Presidents to conduct sales of impounded cattle.

(*xii*) The Bengal Smuggling of Arms Act, 1934 (Bengal Act VI of 1934), to prevent smuggling of arms and ammunitions through the Calcutta and Chittagong Ports by directing action mainly against the person acting as the "go-between" between the smuggler of arms and the respective buyer of smuggled arms.

(*xiii*) The Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1934 (Bengal Act VII of 1934), to deal more effectively with the terrorist movement in Bengal.

(*xiv*) The Presidency Small Cause Courts (Bengal Amendment) Act, 1934 (Bengal Act VIII of 1934), to bring the position of the Calcutta litigants on a par with the mufassal litigants by doing away with certain privileges enjoyed by the former in the parent Act.

(*xv*) The Bengal Excise (Amendment) Act, 1934 (Bengal Act IX of 1934), to bring "*bakhar*" a fermenting agent in the manufacture of pachwai within the purview of the parent Act.

(*xvi*) The Bengal Nurses Act, 1934 (Bengal Act X of 1934), for the registration of nurses, midwives and health visitors and to secure their better training.

(*xvii*) The Bengal Cess (Amendment) Act, 1934 (Bengal Act XI of 1934), to introduce a more accurate system of land valuation than had hitherto been adopted for the purpose of levying the cesses.

(*xviii*) The Bengal Waterways Act, 1934 (Bengal Act XII of 1934), to provide for the maintenance and improvement of waterways in Bengal for purposes of navigation.

(*xix*) The Bengal Wakf Act, 1934 (Bengal Act XIII of 1934), to provide for the proper administration of wakf property in Bengal.

(*b*) Four Government Bills remained pending at the close of the year under review. Government Bills pending.

(*i*) The Bengal Alluvial Lands (Amendment) Bill, 1933, to avoid delay and to simplify the procedure of the parent Act of 1920 in regard to char lands especially where there are alluvial formations which have been attached by the Collector of one district and are subsequently found to belong to a neighbouring district. Consideration postponed.

(*ii*) The Bengal Muhammadan Marriages and Divorces Registration (Amendment) Bill, 1933, to provide for the registration of the class of divorce in which the wife effects it on the authority conferred on her by her husband as a condition of marriage and for the registration of the remarriage of such a woman. Bills referred to a Select Committee.

(*iii*) The Court-fees (Bengal Amendment) Bill, 1933, to provide a suitable machinery for preventing the evasion of the law relating to court-fees. Circulated for opinion.

(*iv*) The Bengal Non-Agricultural Lands Rent Settlement Bill, 1933, to provide for the assessment and settlement of rents of all non-agricultural lands except those permanently settled.

(*c*) The following non-official Bills were pending at the close of the year under review. Non-official Bills pending.

(*i*) The Bengal Mela Sanitation Bill, 1932, by Khan Bahadur M. Azizul Haque, to secure improvement of public health and sanitation in the melas in Bengal and to safeguard the health of the people frequenting such melas as well as of the residents of the locality, as also of the public in general. The report of the Select Committee recommending that the Bill be withdrawn was presented to the Council on the 1st September 1933.

(*ii*) The Estates Partition (Amendment) Bill, 1933, by Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri, to provide for the partition of rent-free or lakhiraj land without the consent of the parties concerned along with the partition of the parent estate. At the meeting of the Council held on the 23rd February 1934, the motion that the Bill be re-circulated for the purpose of eliciting further opinion thereon before the 31st May 1934 was carried.

(*iii*) The Calcutta Municipal (Amendment No. II) Bill, 1933, by Mr. P. Banerji, to allot one seat to the Bengal Bus Syndicate and nine seats to labour and to make plural constituencies into singular ones. On a motion carried by the Council on the 14th

August 1933, the Bill was circulated for opinion by the 15th November 1933.

Non-official Bill withdrawn.

(*d*) The following non-official Bill was withdrawn by the leave of the Council.

The Bengal Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 1933, by Rai Satyendra Kumar Das Bahadur, to remove certain difficulties experienced in regard to certain sections of the parent Act of 1932.

Non-official Bills lost.

(*e*) The Council rejected the following non-official Bills at the stages noted against each.

(*i*) The Bengal State Lotteries Bill, 1933, by Mr. P. Banerji—motion to refer the Bill to a Select Committee.

(*ii*) The Bengal Village Self-Government (Amendment) Bill, 1933, by Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri—motion to refer the Bill to a Select Committee.

(*iii*) The Tenancy (Amendment) Bill, 1933, by Maulvi Syed Majid Baksh—motion for consideration.

(*iv*) The Bengal Tenants Protection from Usury Bill, 1933, by Maulvi Syed Majid Baksh—motion to refer the Bill to a Select Committee as well as the motion to circulate it for opinion.

Bills not taken up for want of time.

(*f*) The following nine Bills were not taken up by the Council as the time allotted to non-official business had expired.

(*i*) The Puri Lodging House (Amendment) Bill, 1932, by Rai Kamini Kumar Das Bahadur, this Bill was already before the Council as introduced but lapsed under the proviso to standing order 6 (*2*).

(*ii*) The Bengal Tenancy (Amendment) Bill, 1933, by Babu Kishori Mohan Chaudhuri.

(*iii*) The Bengal Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 1934, by Khan Bahadur M. Azizul Haque.

(*iv*) The Bengal Medical (Amendment) Bill, 1933, by Mr. A. K. Fazl-ul-Huq.

(*v*) The Bengal Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 1933, by Rai Satyendra Kumar Das Bahadur.

(*vi*) The Bengal Tenancy (Amendment) Bill, 1934, by Babu Satish Chandra Ray Chowdhury.

(*vii*) The Calcutta Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 1933, by Mr. A. Raheem, C.I.E.

(*viii*) The Bengal (Rural) Primary Education (Amendment) Bill, 1934, by Maulvi Abdul Hamid Shah.

(*ix*) The Bengal Village Self-Government (Amendment) Bill, 1934, by Babu Satish Chandra Ray Chowdhury.

CHAPTER VII.

Local Self-Government.

Calcutta Corporation.

252. Babu Santosh Kumar Basu and Haji Muhammad Abdur Razzak were elected Mayor and Deputy Mayor, respectively, and acted as such throughout the year under review. Personnel.

253. The Revenue Account of the Corporation opened with a balance of Rs. 90,65,432. The receipts during the year amounted to Rs. 2,41,25,820 and the payments to Rs. 2,30,10,428. Adjusting assets and liabilities of the previous year and taking into account those of the year under report, the income amounted to Rs. 2,44,28,000 and the expenditure to Rs. 2,30,64,000. On the basis of actual receipts and payments, there was a balance of Rs. 1,01, 80,734, of which Rs. 61,27,575 was in cash and securities. The balance consisted of stores-in-stock Rs. 7,61,181 and advances Rs. 32,91,978. The latter included Rs. 25,49,670 being temporary advance from revenue for financing the schemes for the extension of water-supply, drainage and other capital works to be recouped to the extent of Rs. 10,00,000 on the allocation by Government of the 5½ per cent. Debenture Loan of 1932-33, dated the 1st October 1932, and the balance on the raising of loans. During the year under report, three 4 per cent. Debenture Loans were repaid, viz:— Finances.

(1) Loan of 1903-04, dated 1st June 1903, for Rs. 15,00,000 on 1st June 1933.

(2) Loan of 1903-04, dated 1st October 1903, for Rs. 30,00,000 on 1st October 1933.

(3) Loan of 1916-17 for Rs. 12,85,500 on 1st September 1933.

A further sum of Rs. 5,160-2 was repaid to Government on account of the loan borrowed by the now defunct Manicktala Municipality. In June 1933, a 4½ per cent. Debenture Loan for Rs. 7,78,400 was raised by calling tenders for repayment of the 4 per cent. loan of 1903-04, dated 1st June 1903, for Rs. 15,00,000, the balance being available in the Sinking Fund established under section 108 of the Calcutta Municipal Act, 1923. The loan was raised at a discount, the net realisation being Rs. 7,50,514. A further loan

for Rs. 27,900 was, therefore, raised to cover the discount and the debentures were issued at par to and in the name of the Corporation. Similarly, for repayment of the 4 per cent. loan of 1903-04, dated 1st October 1903, for Rs. 30,00,000, a 4 per cent. Debenture Loan for Rs. 15,56,800 was raised in November 1933 at a discount by calling tenders and a further loan for Rs. 57,100 to cover the discount was issued and reserved by the Corporation at par. The loan of 1916-17 for Rs. 12,85,500 was repaid entirely from its Sinking Fund established under section 106 of the Act. The total indebtedness of the Corporation at the end of the year stood at Rs. 7,95,57,947 including Rs. 74,59,792 on account of the Sterling Debenture Loan of £500,000 and Rs. 10,955 on account of the balance of the loan taken from Government by the now defunct Manicktala Municipality. Against this indebtedness, there was an aggregate accumulation of Rs. 1,89,10,236 in the Sinking Funds. The total payments made on account of loan charges during 1933-34 amounted to Rs. 55,72,494.

Assessment Department.

254. At the close of the year, the assessed annual valuation of the city stood at Rs. 10,51,73,071, being an increase of Rs. 6,41,283 over the valuation at the end of the previous year. This was not only due to the revaluation of properties made during the year for which the revised assessments became operative, but also included those cases in respect of which objections pending during the previous years were disposed of in the course of the year under report.

Chief valuer and Surveyor's Department.

255. Plans and estimates for 46 projects involving an area of about 33½ bighas of land at an estimated cost of nearly Rs. 20 lakhs were prepared and a little over 4½ bighas of land were acquired under the Land Acquisition Act under section 304 of the Calcutta Municipal Act of 1923 and by private treaty at a total cost of Rs. 2,38,951 and odd. In addition, small plots were received free of cost from sundry parties measuring about 3½ kottas and valued at Rs. 9,155 and odd.

Collection Department.

256. The total gross demand of the year was Rs. 2,22,24,388. This includes the arrears of previous year pending with the Collector and the Assessor. Eliminating the amount remitted on account of vacancies, the net demand stood at Rs. 2,14,16,437 as against Rs. 1,99,73,483, or Rs. 14,42,954 more than the previous year. The total amount collected was Rs. 1,84,46,916; bills amounting to Rs. 10,24,735 were pending with the Assessor at the close of the year and bills aggregating Rs. 4,15,212 were transferred to the Law Department, the former for amendment and the latter for recovery by suit; the net unrealised balance pending with the Collector at the close of the year was Rs. 15,29,833 as

against Rs. 20,93,421 at the end of the previous year. Of this balance, the sum of Rs. 4,55,261 represents bills for the previous year. The percentage of collection calculated on the gross current demand against the Collector was 86·816 against 85·646 and 92·355 in the two preceding years and that on the net demand was 89·494 the corresponding percentages in the previous two years being 88.212 and 95.133, respectively.

Miscellaneous bills.

257. The net demand of miscellaneous dues was Rs. 15,14,698. The collection amounted to Rs. 13,23,222. Bills amounting to Rs. 8,643 were transferred to the Law Department for recovery by suit and Rs. 152 to the Issuing Department for modification, leaving a net balance of Rs. 1,82,656 pending with the Collector at the end of the year as against Rs. 2,07,454 outstanding at the end of the previous year. This balance includes (*a*) bills aggregating Rs. 1,26,504 payable by the Government, Suburban Municipalities, Calcutta Improvement Trust and the other public bodies, (*b*) bills aggregating Rs. 9,282 for advertisement in the "Calcutta Municipal Gazette", and (*c*) bills aggregating Rs. 45,485 which were under objections and could not be disposed of until final orders were passed.

Licence Department.

258. The total receipts for the year 1933-34 on account of licence taxes amounted to Rs. 14,91,077-8 including Rs. 12,16,803-14 on account of tax on trades and professions under sections 390 and 428; Rs. 61,083 tax on carriage and animals; Rs. 1,09,006-8 as taxes under sections 179, 386, 405, 396 and 413; Rs. 1,03,196-2 was collected as cart registration fees; and Rs. 988 on account of fees, penalties and miscellaneous receipts. The total number of licences issued during the year 1933-34 was 54,219. The total collections under the Licensed Warehouse and Fire Brigade Act amounted to Rs. 1,30,646-8.

Lighting Department.

259. There were 20,539 gas lamps in the city of Calcutta at the end of the year 1933-34, of which 236 were added during the year. The number of oil and electric lamps was 907 and 3,433, respectively. The Lighting Department is doing its utmost to effect substantial savings in the gas and electric bills. On account of certain favourable terms in the New Gas Agreement with the Oriental Gas Company, Limited, there is now a saving of Rs. 1,40,000 annually in the gas bills. A further saving of about Rs. 27,000 was effected owing to the reduction in the rates charged for the consumption of electricity for the supply of energy annually. By the remodelling of high power electric lamps, there was a further saving of Rs. 30,000 in electric bills.

Water-supply.

260. The average daily quantity of filtered water supplied during the year amounted to about 62·5 million gallons and that of unfiltered water to about 53·3 million gallons, making a total

of 115·8 million gallons per day, as compared with 60·2 million gallons of filtered water and 50·9 million gallons of unfiltered water, or a total of 111·1 million gallons during the previous year. The average consumption of filtered water per head per day in Calcutta upon a population of 1,196,668 (as per Census of 1931) amounts to 52·2 gallons and for Calcutta together with the neighbouring Municipalities of Dum-Dum, Tollygunge, South Suburban upon a population of 1,289,061 to 48·4 gallons. The average consumption of unfiltered water per head per day upon a population of 998,678 amounts to 53·5 gallons as compared with 50·9 gallons in the previous year.

Pulta Pumping station.

261. One of the unfiltered water pumps at Pulta, which was provided with a new locally made shaft worked admirably during the year. The engine attached to this pump, which is shaking on its foundation requires overhauling as well. This work is expected to be taken up during 1934-35. The delivery valves after the F.W. pumps at Pulta were electrified during the year. The Hopkinson's Oil Purifiers installed recently has brought down appreciably the consumption of turbine oil. Trouble was experienced with a new type of weeds, viz., *Lagarosiphon Roxburghi Benth*, which was found to grow very vigorously in one of the settling tanks. In the view of the Curator of the Herbarium, Royal Botanical Gardens, "it is a terrible water pest which has spread like wild fire in tanks resulting in a mass of new work of submerged vegetation." The settling tank was dewatered and the bed excavated out to a depth of about 1 foot and thereafter the whole bed was treated with a solution of bleaching powder before it was brought into commission again.

Tallah Pumping Station.

262. The work of the installation of Venturi meters at Tallah was not proceeded with due to certain defects in manufacture. The electric pump, which was lying out of commission for some time, was run again with current from Palmer's Bridge Pumping Station from 13th November 1933 and with current from Tallah from 19th January 1934. The scheme for the abatement of smoke nuisance, for which the Corporation have been prosecuted on two occasions, requires to be taken up without further delay. There was some trouble due to leakage from the suction culvert leading to the new engine house. The leaks were stopped as far as possible from the outside with "Sima" compound. It is necessary to render it water-tight from within as soon as possible. One 42 inches sluice valve, one 48 inches and a 30 inches valve as well as 4 delivery valves from the pumps were electrified during the year. Four new reflux valves of the Tilting Disc type were supplied during the year for installation on the delivery pipe of the pumps. The question of providing quarters for the menials at

the pumping station, which has been hanging fire for some time now requires speedy disposal.

Mullickghat Pumping Station

263. The new 54 inches delivery main at Mullickghat Pumping Station was found to be leaking whenever it was put under pressure. The services of the contractors, who were attending to the leaks before, were dispensed with and a departmental pipe-layer was detailed to stop the leak. For some time the pipe stood the pressure quite all right but leaks having reappeared, the pipe has been kept out of commission since. It is considered necessary that the cast iron pipes should be replaced with a steel main, for which an estimate has been submitted already. The new pump bodies, which were installed in the previous year, were painted on the inside with rubber solution every month with a view to stopping the sand-blowing action from the silty water of the Hooghly. The experiment has proved satisfactory in so far as there has since been no sign of wearing noticed in any of these pumps. A new pump (No. 7) was installed during the year and coupled up with one of the old repaired motors which was in stock, and the old pump with its motor was returned to Tallah from where it came. The condition of the Intake at Mullickghat Pumping Station is a matter for serious consideration, as vigorous silting takes place up to a distance of at least 200 feet. Of course at the present time the Port Commissioners clean a lot of silt to maintain the Howrah Bridge, but when this bridge is shifted to the proposed site near Juggernath Ghat the difficulties would be aggravated to a large extent, which may even necessitate the abandonment of the station altogether. The matter should be given the serious consideration it deserves.

Watgunge Pumping Station.

264. The body of pump No. 2 was very badly worn and requires replacement as also pump No. 6. An order for manufacture of two such pump bodies was placed with a local firm. The menials' quarters were condemned as unsuitable for human habitation and accordingly they were vacated from the 1st March 1934.

Lorry supply.

265. The arrangement for supplementing the supply of drinking water in outlying areas by means of lorries, principally in Manicktala and Garden Reach, continued during the year.

Drainage.

266. During the year under review the work of the construction of town high level sewer under the Main Drainage Extension Scheme which was taken up in hand in the previous year was carried on vigorously. Out of the total length of 9,650 r. ft. of the sewer about 6,340 r. ft. of sewer was completed. For the provision of adequate drainage of Ward 30 in the Cossipore-Chitpur area, works in connection with the construction of pumping

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station and the installation of pumps in the Carmichael Medical College compound in Belgachia including laying of C.I. raising main and S.W. pipe sewer to take the sewage on to the brick sewer in Raja Dinendra Street on the other side of the Canal was started. The construction of a length of about 1,200 r. ft. of 42 inches B.S. in Ballygunge Station Road from Rash Behari Avenue to Fern Road was also completed. To relieve the drainage congestion of the Maniktola area two additional electric pumping plant were installed at Ultadanga and Belliaghatta Syphon Pumping Stations. Existing buildings were altered and extended according to requirements. In connection with the Calcutta Improvement Trust Scheme No. XV the work of the extension of engine house including old engine house and workshop and construction of the sump chamber at the Ballygunge Drainage Pumping Station was almost completed. Two 6,000 volts induction motor driven pumps at Ballygunge Drainage Pumping Station were under installation. An electric pump at Topsia was also erected. These when completed, will greatly facilitate the disposal of sewage. Certain works to supplement the machinery at pumping stations were carried on, among which, (1) the supply and erection of a Lancashire Boiler at the Ballygunge Drainage Pumping Station and (2) modification of the delivery chamber of pumps and alteration to the Inlet Conduit at Palmer's Bridge Pumping Station are important. Apart from cleansing and surveying of sewers, portions of sewers which collapsed in Rani Sankari Lane, Mullick Street, Kalighat Road, Maniktola Street, Ballygunge Circular Road, and Gopi Bose Lane have been relaid. Steady deterioration of the Bidyadhari and heavy rainfall of the year under review created considerable difficulties in maintaining the existing outfall system which is in an advanced state of decay. The Outfall Scheme for the City of Calcutta to the nearest live river, the Kulti, was prepared and accepted by the Corporation in August 1930. The scheme was under the examination of a Government Expert Committee.

Bustee Department.

267. Sixty-two bustees comprising about 125 bustee holdings have been surveyed during the year with a view to having them improved and standard plans were prepared in respect of 110 bustees. Nineteen bighas of bustee land were cleared of huts. About 1¼ miles of roads have been opened up and 59 connected privies and two bathing platforms have been constructed in various bustees. Forty-seven private streets have been improved during the year as the result of action taken by the department.

Roads.

268. The total expenditure on roads and footpaths amounted to Rs. 6,12,300-1-9. Out of this, Rs. 2,82,421-6-7 was spent for the

construction and improvement of roads including Rs. 1,55,086-14 on new bituminous road surfaces. Besides, a sum of Rs. 1,49,603-14 was spent on repairs to roads previously asphalted and Rs. 2,28,333-12-11 on repairs to other roads.

Conservancy.

269. The total quantity of refuse carried to the square mile at Dhappa, dumped at the different low lands and burnt at the incinerator amounted to 484,348 tons during the year 1933-34. The average quantity of refuse dealt with was 1,327 tons daily.

Building Department.

270. The total number of applications for masonry buildings, huts, sky-signs and verandahs, etc., dealt with during the year 1933-34 was 10,039 against 10,413 in the previous year. Twenty-five per cent. of the applications in the case of masonry buildings and 37 per cent. in the case of huts were sanctioned in the same year. Notices numbering 1,929 were issued under rule 4(*l*) of Schedule XVIII for repairs or reconstruction of old and dilapidated buildings against 2,117 in the previous year. 1,649 notices were also served under section 365 of the Act to prevent the owners from attempting to erect unauthorised construction against 1,596 in the year 1932-33.

Health Department.

271. The total number of births registered during the year 1933 in the city including the Added Areas was 26,045 or 21·8 per mille as compared with 24,925 births in the previous year. This is higher than the birth rate of 20·7 per mille in the preceding year. The total number of deaths registered during the year 1933 for the whole city including the Added Areas was 35,175 or 29·4 per mille against 30,011 or 25·0 per mille of the preceding year. A virulent epidemic of smallpox broke out during the year under report which caused 4,181 deaths or 3·5 per mille against 685 deaths (·57 per mille) of the previous year. This was responsible for enhancing the death rate of the city which was gradually coming down since 1926. There was an increase in the mortality from enteric and influenza as compared with the figures of the preceding year, the number of deaths from enteric being 964 against 864 in 1932 and that from influenza being 710 against 537 of the previous year. The total number of deaths from kala-azar and from other fevers was 233 and 1,856, respectively, against 241 deaths from kala-azar and 1,345 deaths from other fevers in 1932. The number of deaths from malaria was 828 against 882 of the previous year. The total number of deaths from dysentery and diarrhœa and from respiratory diseases was 2,609 and 6,886, respectively, against 2,810 and 6,593 of the previous year 1932. The mortality from cholera and tuberculosis was 1,216 and 2,887, respectively, as against 1,212 deaths from cholera and 2,547 deaths from tuberculosis in 1932. Cholera was epidemic in the city during the earlier part of the year

under report specially in March, April and May, but it subsided gradually during the latter part of the year. There was only one death from plague during this year. Deaths among infants under one year numbered 7,144, the infant mortality rate being 274 per thousand registered births as compared with 6,123 deaths or 246 per thousand births of the previous year.

The Lady Health Visitors and Midwives fully maintained their popularity and rendered useful services to the poor and middle class ratepayers of the city. The midwives delivered 6,912 cases and removed 119 difficult cases of labour to the different hospitals in the city. The Lady Health Visitors who are doctors of the Sub-Assistant Surgeon class personally delivered about 200 cases in addition to the work done by the midwives. The number of infantile deaths among babies delivered by the Corporation staff was 122 excluding 171 still births; the rate of infantile mortality within the first 10 days of birth attended by the Corporation staff was 17 per thousand, while the general infantile mortality within the first week in the whole city was 78 per thousand registered births. There were only 11 maternal deaths among the mothers delivered by the Corporation staff.

Food inspection.

272. The total number of samples of foodstuffs analysed was 10,092, of which 1,252 or 12·4 per cent. were found adulterated. Five hundred and seventy-four out of 1,687 samples of milk, 136 out of 1,747 samples of ghee, 77 out of 511 samples of butter, 50 out of 1,044 samples of sweetmeats, 262 out of 1,894 samples of mustard oil, 5 out of 22 samples of *khoa khir*, 89 out of 463 samples of invalid food, 3 out of 363 samples of tea, 10 out of 270 samples of flour, and 9 out of 51 samples of chenna were found adulterated.

Markets.

273. The total revenue derived from all the Municipal Markets during the year 1933-34 was Rs. 12,60,941 against Rs. 12,32,857 during 1932-33. There was an increase of Rs. 28,084.

Education Department.

274. The total amount of expenditure incurred by the Corporation for educational purposes of all kinds amounted to Rs. 11,89,490 (subject to final adjustment) against Rs. 13,11,511 in the previous year. At the end of the year there were 235 Corporation free primary schools with 32,171 pupils against 232 schools and 31,008 pupils in the previous year. Of the total number of pupils on rolls, 18,349 were boys and 13,822 girls as compared with 17,803 boys and 12,649 girls at the end of the previous year. Of the total number of schools, 3 were part-time schools and were held in the morning while 228 were day schools and 4 night schools; the corresponding figures of the previous year being 3,225 and 4, respectively. At the close of the year there were 1,052 teachers in all Corporation free primary schools, of whom 667 were men and 385 were women.

Calcutta Improvement Trust.

[Report on the operations of the Calcutta Improvement Trust, 1933-34.]

Improvement schemes.

275. The most important work in actual construction continued to be the extension of Chittaranjan Avenue in two schemes—(1) from Beadon Street to Grey Street and (2) from Grey Street to Shambazar Street. In South Calcutta, engineering work commenced in the large scheme for developing the area between Russa Road South, the Dhakuria Lane and Rash Behari Avenue, which scheme provided for a considerable extension of the lake. Lansdowne Road Extension up to its junction with Southern Avenue was nearing completion.

Open spaces.

276. Sites at the Dhakuria Lake were alloted to some societies who proposed to erect attractive club houses and the extension of the lake westwards made considerable progress. Most of the improvement schemes, either in progress or in preparation, were provided with small parks and play grounds.

Bridges.

277. The Chitpur Bridge was completed during the year and preliminary arrangements were made for the construction of the Tollygunge Bridge.

Finance.

278. Although there was a distinct tendency towards improvement of the finances of the Calcutta Improvement Trust during the year under review, the effect of the prevailing depression is still noticeable. The receipts from the duty on jute were Rs. 1,43,000 more than in the previous year with the result that the revenue income from special taxation showed a rise of about Rs. 1·06 lakhs, i.e., from Rs. 15,38,881 in 1932-33 to Rs. 16,44,258 in 1933-34. The receipts from the sale of land increased from Rs. 29·20 lakhs to Rs. 37·18 lakhs. Proceeds from the duty on transfer of property however fell from Rs. 4·19 lakhs in 1932-33 to Rs. 3·75 lakhs in 1933-34. The stagnation of the money market has actually benefited the Trust by bringing money into the purchase of land and into the redemption of outstanding charges.

Municipalities.

Number of municipalities and elections.

279. The number of municipalities was 117 as in the previous year. No change was reported in the boundaries of any municipality excepting certain municipalities of the 24-Parganas whose boundaries were revised during the year in order to correct discrepancies noticed during the recent survey and settlement operation between the notified boundaries of the municipalities and the boundaries of the areas actually administered. General elections under the Bengal Municipal Act, 1932, were held in 51

municipalities during the year. Elections took place in 17 municipalities of the Burdwan division and in 21 municipalities of the Presidency division. The general election of the Gobardanga Municipality was declared null and void on account of irregularities. The elections in the South Suburban Municipality were arranged for but had to be postponed by special orders of Government on account of defective procedure in the election proceedings. The election of Commissioners of the Chittagong Municipality had also to be postponed by Government on the ground of serious irregularities in the preparation of the electoral roll. With the exception of the Kharar and Barrackpore Municipalities and certain wards of a few other municipalities where there were no poll owing to the number of candidates not exceeding the number of seats, the elections were keenly contested in most cases. In 38 wards of 20 municipalities the percentage of attendance of voters was 80 or over and in 21 of these it was 85 or over. In 4 cases the percentage was 90 or over, 2 of these being in the Presidency division and one each in Dacca and Rajshahi divisions, the highest percentage (92·61) being in ward No. III of the Baraset Municipality. In only 2 wards was the percentage less than 50 and the lowest percentage was 45·1 in Ward No. II of the Bhatpara Municipality where only 482 out of 1,068 voters attended the poll. Generally there were no contests or lukewarm contests in respect of seats reserved for the Muhammadan community which was declared a minority community in three of the five municipalities of the Rajshahi division which held their first elections, viz., Dinajpur, Jalpaiguri and Rangpur.

Municipal meetings.

280. The total number of meeting held during the year was 2,524, of which 113 failed for want of a quorum and 309 were adjourned, as against 2,809, 90 and 210, respectively, in the previous year. The number of meetings in the Burdwan division was 348 against 778 in the preceding year and 702 and 747, respectively, in the previous two years: but no explanation for this very marked decrease is forthcoming. The number of unsuccessful meetings was largest in Asansol and Chandrakona Municipalities where out of 33 and 28 meetings 7 and 5, respectively, proved abortive for want of a quorum. In the Presidency division, Nabadwip had the largest number of meetings held, namely, 58, and Kushtia and Santipur came next with 50 and 46 meetings, respectively, to their credit. As in the previous year, the commissioners of the Murshidabad Municipality held the smallest number of meetings, namely, 9, but no other municipality in the division failed to meet at least once a month. In the Dacca division, the municipality of Pirojpur held the largest

number of meetings, viz., 48, but of these no less than 30 meetings either failed for want of a quorum or were adjourned. The Municipalities of Jhalakati and Dacca held 36 and 32 meetings, respectively, and the Muktagacha and Faridpur Municipalities held 30 meetings each. The Municipality of Netrokona however recorded less than one meeting a month. In the Rajshahi division, the Pabna Municipality which held 41 meetings topped the list both in the number of meetings held as well as in the number of meetings adjourned, as many as 13 having been put off for one reason or other. Other municipalities in the division which held more than two meetings a month were Rangpur (33), Rajshahi (30), Nator (31), English Bazar (29) and Bogra (28). The meetings held by the municipalities of Jalpaiguri, Gaibandha, Old Malda and Sherpur were all successful. The attendance of commissioners at meetings was fairly good on the whole. In 3 municipalities the average attendance was over 80 per cent. and in 16 others it was over 70 per cent. In as many as 15 municipalities the attendance was less than 50 per cent., and of these 6 and 5 were in the Presidency and Rajshahi divisions, respectively. The highest percentage (90·4) was in Netrokona. In Howrah the percentage was only 41·17 and at Kotechandpur it fell to 34·4.

Ratepayers and population

281. The total number of ratepayers fell from 346,520 to 344,746 and the population of the municipalities calculated on the basis of the 1931 Census was 2,295,828. In the Burdwan and Presidency divisions there were slight increases in the number of ratepayers, and the percentages of ratepayers to population rose from 15·3 to about 15·4 and from 14·2 to 14·3, respectively. There was a fall in numbers of 558 and in percentage from 14·5 to 14·3 in the Dacca division; and in the Chittagong and Rajshahi divisions, the number of ratepayers fell by 1,442 and 912, respectively, and the percentages from 15·3 to 14·3 and 18·07 to 17·69, respectively. There was a marked decrease in the number of ratepayers in Jalpaiguri, due to the introduction of rate on holdings under the new Bengal Municipal Act of 1932. The highest percentage of rate-payers to population was at Kumarkhali (43·6 per cent.) and the lowest at Bhatpara (3·2 per cent.). Among the towns in which rates are paid by less than one-tenth of the population are the mill municipalities of the Presidency and Burdwan divisions, where the population consists mainly of mill hands living in quarters provided by the mill authorities who pay the bulk of the rates.

Rates and taxes.

282. The total income of municipalities from rates and taxes during the year was Rs. 71,16, 923 as against Rs. 68,81,000 in the previous year. The average incidence of taxation per head of population was Rs. 3-1-2 as compared with Rs. 2-15-11 of the

previous year and the actual incidence ranged from Rs. 13-0-6 in Darjeeling and Rs. 7-10-4 in Howrah and Rs. 6-13-10 in Dum-Dum to Rs. 0-9-9 in Sonamukhi and Rs. 0-5-7 in Debhatta. Revisions of assessment were made in a number of municipalities. No change in the method of assessment occurred in any municipality of the Burdwan division except Howrah where a consolidated rate was levied under the provisions of the Calcutta Municipal Act as extended to it. The rate on holdings was partially imposed in the North Barrackpore Municipality in respect of new holdings, while the tax on persons was replaced by a rate on holdings in Kotechandpur and Barisal Municipalities as well as in certain municipalities in the Rajshahi division. General revision of assessment resulted in decreased revenue in Bogra and Jalpaiguri, but produced notable increases of income at Midnapore (Rs. 8,103), Bankura (Rs. 17,964), Baliy (Rs. 14,743), Bhatpara (Rs. 11,775), and Kanchrapara (Rs. 8,256). Partial revision led to the heavy increase of Rs. 13,096 in Dacca but resulted in a diminution of income amounting to Rs. 901 in Chittagong, Rs. 6,143 in Comilla and Rs. 1,012 in Noakhali, the decreases in the last two places being due to diminution in the value of holdings owing to economic distress. This year also the municipalities of Jamalpur, Mymensingh, Faridpur and Netrakona suffered losses of revenue, owing to remissions as in the previous year and the Barisal Municipality incurred a loss of Rs. 11,264 due to decrease of both latrine and water-rates by 2 and 1 per cent., respectively.

Collection.

283. The total collection rose from Rs. 66·65 lakhs to Rs. 69·28 lakhs and the percentage of total collection on current demand also rose from 88·8 to 92·8. The collections exceeded 100 per cent. of the current demand in 18 municipalities, the highest percentage (131·1) being attained by Sherpur (Bogra). The percentage of collection was below 80 in 13 Municipalities and was no more than 68·4 at Noakhali. In the Burdwan division there was a total increase of Rs. 1·24 lakhs in collections (arrear and current), six municipalities realising more than the current demand and 14 others collecting over 90 per cent. Garulia collected cent. per cent. of its demand without any remission and without leaving any outstanding balance. Collections increased by Rs. 78,058 in the Dacca division. Collections exceeded 95 per cent. on current demand in 7 municipalities but fell below that limit in the other municipalities falling as low as 74·3 per cent. in Gouripore. There was an increase of Rs. 30,399 in total collections in the Rajshahi division; Sherpur stood first with a percentage of 131·1 and old Malda came next with an average percentage of 118·3. The other municipalities in the division

which exceeded 100 per cent. were English Bazar, Nawabganj and Kurseong. In the Chittagong Division there was a fall in collections at Comilla, Brahmanbaria, Chandpur and Noakhali. Total remissions rose by nearly half a lakh of rupees to Rs. 5·1 lakhs and the general percentage of remissions on current demand was 6·8 as against 6·2 in 1932-33 and 6·0 in 1931-32. The rates of remissions to current demand varied from 30·7 per cent. at Sirajganj, 24·2 per cent. at Chandrakona and 22·7 per cent. at Sherpur (Mymensingh) to ·07 per cent. at Meherpur and ·34 per cent. at Jaynagar. The Howrah, Bally, Bankura and Dacca Municipalities remitted as much as Rs. 1,66,197, Rs. 13,671, Rs. 11,803 and Rs. 38,947, respectively, and the total remissions in the Rajshahi division showed a further increase of Rs. 8,859. The outstanding arrears increased from Rs. 28·53 lakhs to Rs. 28·82 lakhs, which is approximately 42 per cent. of the demand realised. The only municipalities which showed no outstanding balance were Bhadreswar, Garulia and Dhulian. Baraset, on the other hand, had outstanding balances amounting to more than its current demand. This year also the Howrah Municipality had the largest outstanding balance, viz., Rs. 9,14,277, and was followed by Dacca (Rs. 1,83,695), Mymensingh (Rs. 1,21,613) Hooghly-Chinsura (Rs. 1,01,533), Tollygunge (Rs. 85,950), Barisal (Rs. 73,926), Bally (Rs. 73,639), Comilla (Rs. 68,083) and South Suburban (Rs. 61,926). Rangpur Municipality closed the year with an outstanding balance of Rs. 60,402 representing 91·29 per cent. of the current demand. Serampore, Asansol, Bankura, Midnapore, Burdwan, Raniganj and Rishra-Konnagar all had large outstanding balances and the same remark applied to Budge-Budge, Jessore, Kishoreganj and Chittagong. Accumulation of these heavy arrears is attributed partly to the prevailing economic distress but partly also to lack of strict supervision over the work of the collecting staff and general unwillingness on the part of municipal executives to take coercive measures against defaulters.

Income and expenditure.

284. The total receipts, with opening balances amounted to Rs. 114·9 lakhs against Rs. 112·9 lakhs in the preceding year, the increase occurring mainly under the head "Municipal rates and taxes". The total disbursements also increased from Rs. 99·7 lakhs to Rs. 1,01·6 lakhs, the increase being distributed over the heads "Public Health and convenience", "Pubic Instruction" and "Miscellaneous". The total balance at the close of the year was Rs. 13·29 lakhs as against Rs. 13·24 lakhs in the previous year. The largest balances were those of Darjeeling (Rs. 1,51,770), Dacca (Rs. 1,48,740), Baranagar (Rs. 58,995), Burdwan (Rs. 56,352), Budge-Budge (Rs. 49,155), South Dum-Dum (Rs. 26,415) and Khulna (Rs. 23,121). The greater portion of the closing balance

held by Baranagar was earmarked for the water-supply scheme while the balances shown against the four last named municipalities were really funds set apart for town improvement schemes. A great many municipalities had closing balances which were quite inadequate to meet outstanding liabilities and in some cases the outstanding liabilities were so heavy that the opening balances were actually minus figures. Several municipalities failed to maintain the prescribed minimum working balance. The worst offenders in this respect were Soriamukhi, Ghatal and Bhola with balances of only Rs. 3, Rs. 166 and Rs. 49, respectively.

Education.

285. The total amount spent on education, including the Government grant of Rs. 1·28 lakhs, rose from Rs. 5·25 lakhs to Rs. 5·53 lakhs. The expenditure on primary education also showed a corresponding increase of about Rs. 21,000 which was shared by all the divisions. In the Presidency division expenditure on primary education rose by Rs. 4,069 which was shared mainly by Naihati, South Suburban and Murshidabad Municipalities. The increase in Naihati was due to the opening of a municipal school for girls; in South Suburban, it was due partly to increased grants to primary schools and partly to increased expenditure on free primary schools, and in Murshidabad to the fact that the educational grants for both the years 1932-33 and 1933-34 were lumped up and charged to this head during the year under review. Howrah Municipality spent Rs. 67,686 on primary education, while Asansol and Burdwan spent Rs. 10,803 and Rs. 8,373, respectively. Dacca Municipality spent Rs. 27,645, which included a Government contribution of Rs. 14,006, on primary schools. The Narayanganj Municipality spent Rs. 16,442 for education and maintained a free public library and seven free primary schools. Elementary education continued to claim adequate attention of the municipal bodies in the Rajshahi division which spent 5·95 per cent. of their ordinary income on primary education. Rajshahi Municipality introduced a system of free primary education and opened two local primary schools during the year under report. The Chittagong Municipality spent Rs. 68,996 on education, of which Rs. 19,877 was received from Government, Rs. 21,669 from school fees and fines and Rs. 115 from subscriptions. The total expenditure on primary education was Rs. 39,408, of which Rs. 22,242 was spent by the municipality out of its own funds. The scheme of the Chittagong Municipality for primary education for girls received the sanction of Government. Female education within this municipality received such a powerful stimulus from the influx of girls from primary schools, that the only high English school, viz., Dr. Khastgir's Girls' School being unable to accommodate the over-

growing number of girls coming from the primary schools, two of the primary schools of the town had to open higher classes up to class X in order to accommodate the surplus girls. The commissioners of the Chittagong Municipality are to be complimented for their enterprise in the matter of primary education. The only municipalities in the province which failed to spend the minimum proportion of 3·2 per cent. of their ordinary income on primary education were Dum-Dum (·5 per cent.), Garulia (1·4 per cent.), Darjeeling (2·45 per cent.), Uttarpara (2·5 per cent.) and Mymensingh (2·8 per cent.).

Water-supply.

286. The total expenditure on water-supply was Rs. 10·90 lakhs against Rs. 14.90 lakhs in 1932-33, showing a decrease of Rs. 4 lakhs. The decrease was most marked at Midnapore (Rs. 3.38 lakhs), Narayanganj (Rs. 34,262) and and Barisal (Rs. 15,761). The decrease at Midnapore was due to adjustment of the advance made to the Public Health Department; at Narayanganj it was due to the fact that the water-works on the east bank of the Lakhya having been completed no capital expenditure was necessary during the year and at Barisal it was due to increased expenditure in the previous year owing to payments of heavy amounts to the Public Health Department for adjustment of an advance made for the water-works. The Municipalities of the Chittagong division decreased their expenditure under this head by Rs. 28,398, while those of the Presidency and Rajshahi divisions increased their expenditure by Rs. 33,374 and Rs. 17,491, respectively. In the Burdwan division the Municipalities of Burdwan, Kalna, Suri, Bankura, Midnapore, Chandrakona, Hooghly-Chinsura, Champdany and Howrah spent less on water-supply, while, on the other hand, those of Asansol, Serampore and Uttarpara spent more. A number of municipalities in the Presidency division increased their expenditure on water-supply; tubewells were sunk by Baranagore, Kamarhati, Panihati, Titagarh and Barrackpore Municipalities and the South Dum-Dum Municipality sunk a deep tube-well worked with electricity with satisfactory results. The Tollygunge and South Suburban Municipalities continued to obtain supplies of filtered water from the Calcutta Corporation main at fixed charges; but the supplies being inadequate to meet the increasing demand, they had to be supplemented by tube-wells. In Bhatpara, the water-supply scheme forms part of the town improvement scheme which was nearing completion. A revised scheme for water-supply based on the assistance assured by authorities of the Hukum Chand Mills was drawn up by Halishahar; this scheme if and when put through, is expected to solve the question of water-supply in this municipality. The Dacca water-works supplied on an average 2,218,436 gallons of

filtered water per day, i.e., 16 gallons per head per diem according to the population of the city. At Narayanganj, the question of water-supply of east bank was solved by the installation of a new water-works, but the whole scheme of improvement of west bank could not be taken up and finished for want of funds; part of the scheme has however been finished at the cost of the municipality and the scarcity of water of certain areas has been removed. The water-works at Mymensingh and Barisal continued to work with satisfactory results, while the water-works at Patuakhali appreciably checked the ravages of cholera in the town which was formerly a hot-bed of the disease. The Comilla and Chandpur Municipalities spent Rs. 13,998 and Rs. 39,120, respectively, during the year. The Chandpur Municipality submitted to Government a new scheme for the improvement of the water-works in the southern section of the municipality, but administrative approval of Government was not accorded to it. The increased expenditure in the Rajshahi division was practically due to the Government subsidy of Rs. 32,300 received by the Municipality of Jalpaiguri for its water-works; the water-supply scheme made good progress under the supervision of the Public Health Department and pipe-laying and erection of distributing tanks were completed. The Rajshahi water-works scheme made no progress owing to the inability of the principal donor, Maharani Hemanta Kumari of Puthia, to pay the balance of the promised contribution of one lakh of rupees, while the water-supply scheme at Pabna also remained at a stand-still as the Taras Zemindars were not disposed to pay anything out of their promised contribution.

Conservancy and drainage.

287. The total expenditure on conservancy rose from Rs. 22·64 lakhs to 28.99 lakhs, but it was well in excess of the receipts on this account. The deficit amounting to Rs. 14.26 lakhs was met from the general fund in many municipalities, which seem to persist in ignoring the principle of making the special funds self-supporting by raising the rates to the maximum limit or by reducing expenditure. The largest increase in expenditure (Rs. 6,35,535) occurred in Bhatpara but this was due to transfer of drainage charges to this head. Titagarh on the other hand showed a decrease of Rs. 12,316 owing to larger expenditure incurred during the previous year for the sewerage extension scheme. In the Burdwan division there was decrease in expenditure amounting to Rs. 30,765, which was mainly due to economy and retrenchment by some municipalities, where no serious epidemic occurred during the year. On the other hand, there were increases in expenditure in Baidyabati and Uttarpara Municipalities due to extension of conservancy provisions throughout the municipalities, while in Bally the increase was due to the purchase of more carts and cattle during

the year. No satisfactory explanation has been furnished for the heavy increase of Rs. 20,784 in Dacca. The payment of arrear bills of fodder, purchase of a motor lorry and making of an additional arrangement for the removal of nightsoil from the Military Camp was responsible for an increase of Rs. 7,849 in Mymensingh. The expenditure swelled by Rs. 2,530 in Barisal due to the purchase of a new motor lorry for watering the streets. On the other hand, the saving of Rs. 3,081 in Faridpur was due to the fact that some bills could not be paid for want of funds. The Chittagong Municipality increased its expenditure on conservancy by reconstructing a public latrine and thoroughly repairing another, by engaging two motor lorries on contract system for the removal of town refuse at an annual cost of Rs. 8,500, and by constructing two new sweepers' sheds; the contract system of removal of night-soil continued as in the previous year and a portion of the trenching ground road was made pucca for the easy passage of nightsoil carts. The Darjeeling Municipality spent Rs. 7,187 more than in the previous year on original conservancy works. Road-watering by motor lorry was in vogue in the Rangpur and Jalpaiguri Municipalities and the Municipality of Dinajpur sank a number of shallow tube-wells for road-watering purposes. The total expenditure on drainage fell from Rs. 7·09 lakhs to Rs. 2·61 lakhs and no new scheme of importance was undertaken. The decrease in expenditure is noticeable in all the divisions except Rajshahi where there was an increase of Rs. 5,431 in capital outlay on new drains to which Darjeeling alone contributed Rs. 4,085. There was noticeable increase in expenditure on drainage in Krishnagar and Ranaghat Municipalities due to an extension of drainage in ward No. I of the former municipality and the construction of pucca drains in the latter. The increase of Rs. 7,589 in Dacca is attributed to the payment of the outstanding bills of the previous year and construction of some drains. In Brahmanberia three new drains were constructed during the year under review. The drainage scheme of Dinajpur, Jalpaiguri and English Bazar made no progress and the drainage of Natore continued to be as unhealthy as ever. Lack of resources no doubt stands in the way of ambitious scheme of drainage in most municipalities, but as pointed out by the Commissioner of the Rajshahi Division, the commissioners and executives of municipalities would be well advised to pay greater attention to small remedial measures involving only moderate outlay and not much skilled supervision which would improve the public health and amenities of the towns much more than other more spectacular schemes. What is needed chiefly in the rural municipalities is not the substitution of pucca for kutcha drains but a careful taking of levels with a view to preventing drains becoming water-logged.

Lighting.

288. The total expenditure on lighting amounted to Rs. 6,90,335 against Rs. 7,03,308 in the previous year. Increase of expenditure in Bally (Rs. 4,504) and Asansol (Rs. 1,463) were due to the installation of electric lighting, while in Hooghly-Chinsura and Serampore they were due to the payment of pending bills. Electric lighting was extended in the Kurseong Municipality and resulted in a great improvement in the amenities of the town. The electrification of Jalpaiguri is making good progress and is reported to be nearing completion. The principal streets of Rangpur continued to be lit by electric lights, there being kerosene lights in lanes and by-lanes. Electric lighting was introduced in the Serajganj town, but the prospects of the private company are reported to be far from cheerful owing to dearth of private custom. The electrification scheme for Jalpaiguri made no further progress and at Pabna the prospect of electrification of the town had made no headway since the departure of the licensee who went bankrupt. Dacca Municipality increased its electric lights from 807 to 926. The Chittagong Municipality maintained 474 electric lights against 453 in the previous year, but lighting arrangements continued to be unsatisfactory in some important parts of the town of Comilla.

Public health.

289. The municipal authorities as a rule showed commendable energy in initiating measures for the improvement of public health and in dealing with outbreaks of smallpox and cholera. Smallpox in an epidemic form is reported to have broken out in only 4 municipalities, viz., Bogra, Dinajpur, Pabna and Serajganj. The epidemic at Bogra was severe and the district board practically took over the work of fighting it at the request of the municipality. Sporadic cases of cholera and smallpox occurred in most places but adequate measures were promptly taken in the shape of vaccination and anti-cholera inoculation, chlorination of tanks and wells and disinfection of drains. Vaccination and revaccination were carried out systematically and measures were taken by most municipalities to vaccinate and revaccinate children. Free home vaccination was resorted to by a large number of municipalities in the 24-Parganas, most of which employed permanent vaccinators. Temporary vaccinators were also employed by some municipalities when occasion demanded.

Less success, however, attended the efforts of the municipalities in dealing with malaria, which demands, for its control, not intermittent displays of energy but sustained efforts on a definite and well-laid out plan, giving no immediate results. From all parts of the province there are reports of activity in filling up insanitary tanks, cutting down jungle and eradicating water-hyacinth. But

the problem is so stupendous that such activities, valuable as they are, cannot possibly control malaria unless carried out systematically and over large areas and the financial resources of most municipalities forbid their undertaking them on a sufficiently large scale. The new Municipal Act confers greater powers on the municipal authorities in this respect, but it is essential that they should be used with more firmness and prompt steps should always be taken to enforce the orders issued on owners of private lands to carry out sanitary improvements. In the Presidency division the anti-malaria societies did excellent work in co-operation with local municipalities. The Palli Mandali of Birnagar undertook preventive and curative schemes against malaria, as in previous years, with the co-operation and help from the local municipality and with financial assistance from Government.

Berhampore continued to maintain one leprosy and two kala-azar centres for free treatment of patients suffering from these diseases and the leprosy clinics at Krishnagar and Nabadwip were fairly attended. The Nabadwip Municipality by reopening a maternity home and orphanage in connection with the local Lodging House Committee continued to do useful work. The Dacca and Chittagong Municipalities also started free leprosy treatment centres. The Chittagong Municipality opened an anti-rabic centre and killed 244 dogs in order to safeguard the public against rabies. The Burdwan Municipality organised a Baby Show with the help of the district board and also held a Health Welfare Exhibition. The Municipality of Kurseong broke new ground by starting a health association for health education and propaganda among the ratepayers. The town has been divided into 13 groups, each group being placed under the control of an honorary organiser. The municipal Sanitary Inspector is said to visit each group by turn and holds talk by means of charts and posters and distributes leaflets. This example may be profitably followed in the larger plains municipalities.

Activities against the sale of adulterated foodstuffs continued to be uneven. There were 68 prosecutions under the Food Adulteration Act in the Presidency division, of which 66 ended in conviction, while in the Dacca district alone 393 prosecutions were instituted and 87 prosecutions were instituted against vendors for exposing foodstuffs to contamination by dust and insects. In Chittagong there was a noticeable improvement in the quality of foodstuffs as a result of strict administration of the Food Adulteration Act. Varying interest in this respect was displayed by several municipalities in the Rajshahi division where the number of prosecutions totalled 73, of which 71 ended in conviction.

Darjeeling Municipality instituted 34 cases. The small Municipality of Gaibandha prosecuted 18 cases, while Rangpur and Jalpaiguri had only 6 cases each to their credit.

Public works.

290. Expenditure on public works rose from Rs. 10·40 lakhs to Rs. 11.75 lakhs. The largest net increase, namely, Rs. 33,888, was in the Dacca division; the increase was noticeable under the sub-head "Roads". Dacca Municipality alone spent Rs. 46,906 more under this head including a grant of Rs. 11,438 from the Motor Vehicles Tax Fund. The total length of the metalled and unmetalled roads maintained by the municipalities in this division showed an increase of 4·86 miles. The Presidency division followed next with a net increase of Rs. 31,226. The total mileage of roads maintained by the municipalities rose by 19·35 miles which was shared by Kanchrapara, Bhatpara, Garulia, North Dum-Dum, Baruipur and Kumarkhali. The Chittagong Municipality reduced its expenditure on roads by Rs. 6,770, but Comilla and Chandpur Municipalities increased their expenditure by Rs. 9,251 and Rs. 12,613, respectively. In Comilla the increase was due to the payment of outstanding liabilities of the previous year and the repairing of some roads and in Chandpur it was due to adjustment of advances against acquisition of land and also to general repairs of all the metalled roads and metalling of some kutcha roads. The net increase of Rs. 28,026 in the Rajshahi division, was partly due to the fact that the municipalities received shares from the proceeds of the motor vehicles tax for the first time during the year. The Darjeeling Municipality spent a larger amount for painting its roads and Jalpaiguri increased its expenditure by shingling and tarring the principal roads of the town. Rajshahi is reported to have treated some of its roads with bituminous emulsion and Dinajpur also took up a programme of tarring some of its principal streets. In the Burdwan division there was a net increase of Rs. 24,216 under this head and Rs. 18,964 more was spent under "Roads" and Rs. 7,348 more under "Establishment". The expenditure was highest in Debhatta, viz., 35·09 per cent. of the total expenditure, and lowest in Chandrakona, viz., 1·8 per cent. only.

Audit of accounts.

291. The accounts of all but 5 municipalities, viz., Debhatta, Netrakona, Kishoreganj, Faridpur and Noakhali were audited by the Examiner of Local Accounts and his staff, but the delay in taking action on the audit notes still continues. No serious cases of embezzlement or misappropriation occurred in any of the municipalities except Khirpai, South Suburban, Dacca, Chittagong and Serajganj. In Khirpai, a case of temporary embezzlement was detected in the course of audit and the tax daroga and the accountant who were held guilty of the offence were punished with

fines. In South Suburban there was a defalcation of Rs. 10,000 by a collecting sarkar who was convicted on prosecution. Two cases of embezzlements by collecting sarkars were detected in Dacca; the full amount misappropriated was realised in the one case and in the other attempts were being made to recover the amount embezzled. The collecting sarkar of the Serajganj Municipality embezzled an amount of Rs. 589-0-6, which was discovered when some of the big ratepayers who had paid their taxes were verbally threatened with the issue of distress warrants. This was not the first case of defalcation, a similar case having occurred in 1928-29. But in spite of this the collecting sarkar was only dismissed and not prosecuted. There was a case of loss by theft in the Darjeeling Municipality. The office of the Market Superintendent was broken into and a fairly large sum of money, viz., Rs. 1,144-11, being collections from the market, stolen. Arrangements have since been made to send remittances daily to the Central Office or the bank and the iron safe has been shifted to the Darjeeling Fire Brigade room which is always guarded.

District Boards.

District boards.

292. The total number of members of the 26 district boards in the Presidency fell from 696 to 694, the decrease being due to the fact that one vacancy in the Bankura District Board and another in the Noakhali District Board could not be filled up during the year. Out of 694 members 102 were *ex-officio*, 144 nominated and the rest elected. The District Magistrate remained Chairman of the District Boards of Bankura and Midnapore, two districts with abnormal features in the record of the last few years but elsewhere Chairmen were elected except in Darjeeling where the Chairman of the District Board has always been appointed. The number of meetings held during the year was 365, of which two failed for want of a quorum and 8 were adjourned.

Local boards.

293. The number of local boards was 84 as in the previous year and their total membership increased from 1,373 to 1,383. The increase is due to the fact that 11 seats in the district of Midnapore, which were left vacant during the preceding year, were filled up during the year and that 4 seats (1 in Hooghly, 1 in Tippera and 2 in Noakhali), fallen vacant during the year, were not filled up. Of the members 83 were *ex-officio*, 439 were nominated and 861 elected. The boards were presided over by 81 elected and 3 nominated official chairmen. Altogether 738 meetings were held. Of these, 6 proved abortive for want of a quorum and 21 were adjourned. The average percentage of attendance was highest (92·0) at Bongaon and lowest (46·1) at Kandi. These

boards continued to function as electoral colleges for district boards and local agencies for the expenditure of delegated funds. As observed by the Commissioner, Rajshahi Division, "they have very little independence, work or responsibility."

Union committees.

294. There were 12 union committees in the Presidency as in the previous year. Of these, 7 committees were in Midnapore and 5 in the 24-Parganas district. The union committees of Contai and Danton levied a local tax under section 118-C of the Local Self-Government Act and the others depended solely on allotments from district boards.

Financial feature.

295. The gradual increase in the revenues of district boards noticed from the year 1931-32, continued in the year under review, during which the income rose by over Rs. 14 lakhs to Rs. 1,51.8 lakhs. The increase occurred mainly under the heads "Civil works" (Rs. 7.16 lakhs) and "Local rates" (Rs. 3.60 lakhs). The increase under the former was mainly due to grants made by Government from the Petrol and the Motor Vehicles Tax Funds and that under the latter to cess revaluations in certain districts. The total expenditure chargeable to current income rose from Rs. 1,39.66 lakhs to Rs. 146.09 lakhs. The expenditure under the head "Civil works" increased from Rs. 50.64 to Rs. 57.89 lakhs and under "Medical" from Rs. 34.66 to Rs. 35.74 lakhs. The closing balance at the end of the year was Rs. 41.64 lakhs.

Education.

296. The income and expenditure under this head amounted to Rs. 21.59 lakhs and Rs. 37.31 lakhs against Rs. 21.58 and Rs. 37.51 lakhs, respectively. The number of primary schools maintained and aided by district boards was 53,395 with 1,595,618 pupils, of whom 423,925 were girls. The total expenditure of district boards on primary education amounted to Rs. 27.98 lakhs as against Rs. 28.18 lakhs. Owing to the prevailing economic depression the income of primary schools from private sources fell from Rs. 26.37 lakhs to Rs. 25.18 lakhs. The primary schools in the Burdwan district were under the management of union boards excepting those in the Asansol subdivision and in the Jungle Mahals where there are no union boards. The District Board of Burdwan continued to maintain a technical school. Thirty-four primary schools under the Biss Scheme and 3 weaving schools were maintained by the Bankura District Board. It also made contributions to the Vishnupur Industrial School, Tiluri Sikshyasram, the Bankura Medical School, the Music School at Vishnupur and the Girl's Music School at Ajodhya. A grant of Rs. 70 a month was paid by the district board to the Tiluri Sikshyasram for the promotion of Ayurvedic education. In Midnapore there were 113 primary schools, of which 5 were under

the Biss Scheme. Four weaving and spinning schools in the district received grants from the district board. Free primary schools were also maintained by the District Boards of Faridpur, Jessore, Khulna, 24-Parganas, Howrah and Hooghly. The Hooghly District Board maintained 34 night schools for the labouring classes and made contributions to the Moberly Junior Technical School at Hooghly, the Bhutnath Pal Agricultural School and the District Industrial Association. Seven model primary schools under the Griffith's Scheme were maintained in Howrah and the Industrial School at Belur, the Agricultural School at Chinsura, the Folk Dance Training Camp at Howrah and the District Industrial Association received grants from the district board. A sum of Rs. 400 was passed by the 24-Parganas District Board as grants-in-aid to Sanskrit tols for the advancement of Sanskrit learning. The Khulna District Board maintained the Coronation Technical School and the District Weaving School, the Maheswarpasha School of Arts and 3 industrial schools received grants from the board. The Nadia District Board continued to subsidise 4 technical and industrial institutions and made grants to the 2 weaving schools in the district and to the Chittaranjan Seva Sadan at Calcutta. A sum of about Rs. 550 was spent by the board towards the expenses of the demonstration parties deputed to this district by the Director of Industries, Bengal. The model Middle English School at Kapasia continued to be maintained by the Dacca District Board and the Mymensingh District Board continued to spend liberally towards the upkeep of the Kashi Kishore Technical School and the Government Weaving School at Tangail. Two peripatetic weaving schools, one at Nandina and the other at Bajitpur, worked during the year in Mymensingh.

Public health and medical relief.

297. The income under the head "Medical" fell from Rs. 15.76 lakhs in 1932-33 to 15.73 lakhs, but the expenditure rose from 34.66 lakhs to 35.74 lakhs, the main increase being under the head "Sanitation and vaccination," viz., from Rs. 17.76 lakhs to 19.37 lakhs. Government contribution fell from Rs. 13.85 lakhs to Rs. 13.59 lakhs. The number of dispensaries aided and maintained by district boards rose from 1,010 to 1,029. There was thus an average of one dispensary for every 67 square miles of area and for every 45,000 of population. Six-hundred and thirty-four dispensaries were maintained by district boards at an average cost of Rs. 1,785 per dispensary, and 395 were aided at an average of Rs. 894 per dispensary. The average cost of maintenance varied from Rs. 2,249 in Jalpaiguri to Rs. 685 in Faridpur. The total number of dispensaries (inclusive of Homeopathic dispensaries) aided by the District Boards of Rajshahi, and Mymensingh were

95 and 67, respectively. The District Board of Noakhali aided 16 Homeopathic dispensaries. The District Board of Nadia, besides subsidising the Homeopathic dispensary at Rai Bagulat and an Ayurvedic one at Muragacha granted a stipend of Rs. 15 per month at the Tibbia-Habibia College at Dacca to learn the Unani system of medicine. Murshidabad continued to subsidise the municipal and the Ayurvedic and other dispensaries as in the preceding year. In Rangpur an X'ray equipment was installed in the Sadar Hospital. The work of the rural public health organisations was on the whole satisfactory, specially in prevention and suppression of epidemics and in increasing the interest taken by the rural population in public and personal hygiene by propaganda. Provision of facilities for the treatment of kala-azar in the affected areas was made by some districts. Measures were also taken against smallpox and cholera by the use of preventive vaccinations and anti-cholera inoculations, but outbreaks of cholera and smallpox in epidemic form were reported in many districts, specially in Howrah, Hooghly, Bakarganj and in certain thanas of Chittagong. An experiment to control malaria by the use of plasmochin and quinine under the supervision of the Director of Public Health was undertaken by Government in the Memari thana of the Burdwan district. Considerable success is said to have attended the experiment. The Nabaganga-Mathabhanga scheme initiated by the Nadia District Board in co-operation with the Jessore District Board was completed during the year and flood water entered the cut with good results. Other anti-malaria works undertaken by most of the district boards mainly consisted in the distribution of quinine sulphate and cinchona febrifuge tablets, deputation of doctors to affected areas and starting of travelling dispensaries. The campaign against kala-azar by the provision of facilities for treatment in affected areas was attended with good results in most of the districts. Special arrangements for the treatment of leprosy was made by the District Boards of Burdwan, Bankura and Midnapore. Female vaccinators were maintained in Jalpaiguri, Bogra, Pabna and some other districts and did good work among *purdcnashin* ladies. Action taken by the district boards under the Bengal Food Adulteration Act, 1919, resulted in checking the sale of adulterated foodstuff in certain districts, especially in the Chittagong division.

Veterinary.

298. Progress in veterinary development received a set-back from the financial difficulties of the past few years. The veterinary receipts decreased from Rs. 2,446 to Rs. 2,181 and the charges under this head also fell from Rs. 1,82,679 to Rs. 1,79,418, the decrease being shared by all the divisions except Burdwan where the expenditure rose from Rs. 29,771 to Rs. 29,853. The small

decrease of Rs. 154 and Rs. 95 in the Presidency and Rajshahi divisions calls for no remarks, but that in the Chittagong division is attributed mainly to non-payment of arrear for medicines and pension contribution of veterinary assistant surgeons. Most of the district boards employed inspectors and veterinary assistant surgeons. The District Boards of Rajshahi and Malda purchased young stud bulls through the agency of the Live-Stock Officer of Rajshahi and they were distributed in consultation with him to different localities according to the needs of those localities. The public health demonstration and cinema parties continued preaching as in last year, but much yet remains to be done. Cattle epidemics were reported only from Pabna and Khulna; the situations, were however, soon brought under control.

Civil works.

299. The income under this head rose from Rs. 15,68,884 to Rs. 22,85,331. The increase was shared by all the divisions and in most cases due to allotments from the Road Development Fund and the Motor Vehicles Tax Fund. Tolls on ferries also rose by about Rs. 12,000 to Rs. 5,22,276, the increase being attributed to better collection of arrear rents during the year under review. Expenditure under the head amounted to Rs. 57,89,817 against Rs. 50,64,007 in the preceding year representing about 35 per cent. of the total expenditure of the boards. The increase was shared by all the divisions and occurred chiefly under the sub-heads "Buildings," "Communications," "Water-supply (original)." The total expenditure on communications was Rs. 34·98 lakhs against Rs. 29·76 lakhs in the preceding year. The increase was due mainly to subventions from the Central Road Fund, the Motor Vehicles Tax Fund, rather than to any additional expenditure by the district boards from their own fund. The increase of Rs. 2,41,590 in the Dacca division was due to expenditure against contributions from the Road Fund on the reconstruction of Dacca-Narayanganj and Mymensingh-Tangail Roads. In the Presidency division the increase was Rs. 39,405 for which the 24-Parganas District Board was mainly responsible. The latter utilised the grant from the Motor Vehicles Tax Fund in the best possible way and spent Rs. 2,57,146 against Rs. 1,74,682 on repairs of roads. In the Burdwan division the increase was shared by all the district boards; the largest increase (Rs. 56,000) occurring in Howrah. In Khulna the Daulatpur-Satkhira Road from Kapotakshi to Kapashdanga was metalled, the cost being met in part from the donation of a gentleman; and a portion of the Satkhira-Choudhuria Road was metalled from the proceeds of the Motor Vehicles Tax. The Jalpaiguri District Board completed two fairly large bridges, one on the Karatoa and the other over Neora river and the project of raising and shingling the Madarihat-Falkata Road was also nearing

completion. The bridge over the Tangon river, Thakurgaon in Dinajpur, was also completed during the year. The mileage of metalled roads was 2,631.48 against 16,922.95 of unmetalled roads and 20,181.96 of village roads.

Water-supply.

300. The expenditure under this head rose from Rs. 5,51,924 in 1932-33 to Rs. 5,96,753. The increase was shared by all the divisions except the Presidency. Much activity was shown by many boards in sinking wells during the year: the Bogra District Board which sank as many as 385 tube-wells headed the list; Pabna sank 10, Burdwan 92, Sadar and Rampurhat Local Boards in Birbhum 7, Howrah 49, Murshidabad 80, Khulna 81, Faridpore 79, Chittagong 11, and Tippera 33. In Noakhali experiments were made with sinking of tube-wells in some parts of the district, but owing to the alluvial nature of the soil many of them were found unsuccessful. The district board therefore preferred excavation of tanks to sinking of tube-wells. In the district of 24-Parganas a staff consisting of one inspector, one mechanic and six mistries were maintained to look after the tube-wells. The local boards in Midnapore (other than that of Jhargram) sank 269 tube-wells during the year. In Hooghly the problem of drinking water-supply has been solved to an appreciable extent. The tube-well scheme has proved very successful and there is hardly any village where there is not at least one tube well. The Chittagong District Board sank 5 ring-wells; and the Pabna and Burdwan District Boards completed 29 and 46 masonry wells during the year. Forty-five tanks were excavated by the Chittagong District Board and 30 by the District Boards of Khulna, Howrah and Burdwan and the Local Board of Jhargram. In Bakarganj two tanks taken up in the preceding year were completed, and the construction of four new tanks were taken up. The District Board of Dacca maintained the water-works of Munshiganj at a total cost of Rs. 3,406 and paid the usual annual subsidy of Rs. 500 towards the maintenance of the Manickganj water-works. Tippera contributed Rs. 2,000 to the Brahmanbaria Municipality for water-supply.

CHAPTER VIII.

Agriculture, Forests and Co-operation.

Agriculture.

Administration.

301. Dr. G. P. Hector went on leave for 13 months, and Mr. K. McLean took over charge of the department.

Research and experiments.

302. The following schemes of research were financed by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research:—

(1) Dacca Sugarcane Seedling Testing Station.

(2) Investigation into problems of animal nutrition.

(3) Investigation into problems of soil physics.

(4) Scheme for the improvement of trade rice in Western Bengal.

(5) Experiments on cane crushing and gur boiling.

(6) An economic enquiry into the cost of cultivating sugarcane and other rotation crops.

(7) The establishment of a horticultural station.

Agricultural and Sericultural education.

303. Owing to the financial situation the establishment of the Agricultural Institute is still delayed. The Chinsura Bhutnath Agricultural School, which was opened in September, 1932, made some progress. It is however too early yet to form any definite conclusion as to its ultimate success. The experiment of training *bhadralog* youths at the Faridpur Farm was continued. The fifth batch of youths has completed its training and is now at work on the land. The sixth batch is under training on the Faridpur Farm. No more teachers were admitted for training at the Dacca Agricultural School during the year. Fourteen students passed the final examination of the school and 17 were admitted. There were 56 high English and middle English schools teaching agriculture and 3,030 boys received instruction during the year under report. The area of the school gardens and the farms cultivated was 219·41 acres. Progress is not everywhere fully satisfactory. Lack of enthusiasm on the part of the school authorities

is responsible in some cases, whilst in some schools the teachers lack the practical teaching experience necessary for the work. Steps are being taken to eliminate the schools which are working badly. The free primary agricultural schools at Kishoreganj and Burirhat are doing useful work, so much so that inspecting officers have pressed for additional staff on account of the increased number of boys seeking admission. Good work continues to be done at the sericultural schools at Piasbari and Berhampore Nurseries. During the year 12 stipends of Rs. 10 each a month were granted to sons of silkworm rearers for training in advanced courses of sericulture at the Berhampore and Piasbari Nurseries. One hundred and twelve sons of rearers were employed as labourers for practical training in different nurseries.

Fibre Section.

304. Propaganda to restrict sowing of Jute was continued on a more extensive scale. Both officials and non-officials were pressed into service, but the response was inadequate. An interesting experiment on extraction of Sisal is in progress.

Sugarcane.

305. The area under improved cane in the Presidency increased to 117,415 acres and the area planted for the coming crops will again show an increase. Forty lakhs of cuttings were distributed under departmental supervision. Three white sugar mills, each with a capacity of 500 tons of cane per day, commenced work during the season—one at Sitabganj in the Dinajpur District, one at Gopalpore in the Rajshahi district and another at Beldanga in the Murshidabad district. About 40 open-pan factories were reported to be working during the season, whilst a number of small plants were at work centrifuging gur.

Botanical research.

306. As a result of varietal tests on the district farms Dharial aus and Basamanik aman paddies have once again established their superiority as heavy yielders, the outturn of the former being 32 maunds per acre. The organisation for the establishment of small, local paddy seed farms throughout the province has proved successful, and there are to-day 295 paddy seed centres as against 228 in the previous year, aggregating 2,774 acres under aman and aus paddies for production and distribution. Satisfactory results have also been obtained from experiments with wheat, pulses and groundnuts.

Fodder crops.

307. Investigation into the cultivation of fodder crops continues and cowpea shows great promise under cold weather condition. This year too there has been a great demand for cuttings of Napier grass which it has been found difficult to meet. The experimental work on juar, maize and other fodder crops is also being continued.

Mycology and Entomology.

308. The investigation into "Pan" disease, which was undertaken in collaboration with the Imperial Mycologist, Pusa, has now reached the stage where definite recommendations can be made to the growers. The investigation was complicated by the fact that not one but three fungi are responsible for the loss. Disease of paddy, cane, gram, tobacco, papaya and potatoes were also investigated and treated. No widespread attacks by insect pests were reported during the year.

Cattle breeding.

309. As a measure of retrenchment the Rangpur Cattle Farm was closed and the best of the Hariana and half-bred stock transferred to Dacca. Departmental bulls served 1,229 cows in the year. Sixty-seven bulls were issued for stud purposes. Premia of Rs. 120 per annum were granted to the owners of 30 approved bulls which covered 2·333 cows against 2·274 in the previous year. Progress has been satisfactory in those districts where Livestock Officers are posted.

Agricultural engineering.

310. The attention of the Agricultural Engineer has been mainly directed to the improvement and erection of improved sugarcane milling machinery. A demonstration factory for the manufacture of sugar on the open-pan system with up-to-date equipment was erected at Rajshahi and a similar factory was established at Malda by the Malda Co-operative Sugar Society. The Engineer has also designed improved acreators, grainers, sugar disintegrators and centrifugals for use in open-pan factories. The buildings for the Horticultural Section at Krishnagar were also designed and constructed under the supervision of the Agricultural Engineer. A survey was made for an extensive irrigation scheme in the Malda district.

Farms.

311. There are 26 Government farms in the Presidency. No new farms were opened during the year. The number of private farms run by zemindars and others is increasing rapidly despite the low prices received from produce. The demonstration farm at Brahmanbaria was originally established when the estate was under the Court of Wards, and it is still proving very successful under estate management.

Sericulture.

312. During the year four sericultural nurseries were closed down and the sericultural staff was considerably reduced as a measure of retrenchment. During the year 18,718 kahons of seed were produced as against 24,167 kahons in the previous year—the fall in production being due to reduction in the number of nurseries. The work on selection of indigenous nistari and chotopolu was continued. Experimental selection of Chinese, Kashmere and

French univoltines was also in progress at the Kurseong, Berhampore and Bogra nurseries. Chotopolu strains continued to be raised at Bogra and multiplicated at Kurseong for one generation before being supplied to rearers on the plains. Eri cultivation was continued at Bogra. The introduction of tree mulberry as an auxiliary to bush mulberry went on briskly. The cultivation of tree mulberry plantation is not only more economical but the trees stand up better to drought than do bush mulberries. There were 114 selected rearers at work, of whom 73 were passed students from sericultural schools. Further 60 selected rearers in the Murshidabad district produced one or two seed crops with departmentally examined layings. Twenty thousand and forty-eight kahons of seeds were sold by selected rearers as against 24,585, the fall being due to low prices of cocoons. Despite reduction of staff the propaganda side of this section has done good work, so much so that there are now, 2,383 improved rearing houses in the district of Malda, of which 111 houses were started during the year. During the year under review 341 cases of epidemic disease were treated, and in only 35 cases did preventive measures fail. In Bankura and Midnapore districts 10 co-operative societies amongst silkworm rearers have been organised. In Bogra district eri cultivation has been extended in 29 villages as against 24 villages in the previous year.

Weather and Crops.

Character of the season.

313. Ante-monsoon showers in March and in early April being defective, preparatory tillage for and sowings of autumn crops were somewhat delayed. In the latter part of April and May good rain fell over the greater part of the province facilitating the operations and improving the growth of the germinated kharif crops generally. Rainfall in June was sufficient for preparation of fields for winter paddy and sowings in seed-beds. Heavy monsoon showers in July and August greatly helped transplanting operations and good progress was made in this direction. In parts of West and North Bengal, however, a reduced area was brought under cultivation owing to excessive rain in the former and insufficient rain in the latter. Good rainfall with alternate sunshine in September and October generally favoured the growth and final development of transplanted paddy. Lack of adequate soil moisture from November onwards affected the growth of early spring crops, but rainfall towards the end of January generally improved the prospects. In the middle of February hail-storms caused damage to spring crops especially in some North Bengal districts. On the whole, the season was satisfactory for winter and autumn crops and fair for rabi crops.

The following table furnishes the estimated area and outturn in 1933-34 of bhadoi, aghani and rabi crops as compared with the corresponding estimates of the previous year.

Name of harvests.	Normal area in acres.	Area cultivated during 1932-33 in acres.	Area cultivated during 1933-34 in acres.	Taking 100 to represent the normal outturn per acre, how much represents the outturn for the year—	
				1932-33.	1933-34.
Bhadoi ..	9,635,900	8,322,800	8,828,200	79	79
Winter rice ..	16,442,400	15,590,000	15,498,700	90	81
Sugarcane ..	201,100	233,200	256,600	94	86
Other sugar producing plants ..	54,400	57,500	53,600	..	..
Rabi ..	4,843,900	3,971,200	3,938,800	81	78
Total ..	31,177,700	28,174,700	28,575,900	..	..

Bhadoi crops (excepting Jute.)

314. The weather was generally favourable for sowing and for the growth and development of the crops. Damage by flood and heavy rainfall was caused to certain low-land tracts of West and North Bengal. High land crops, on the other hand, fared well. On the whole, the season was satisfactory for crops. The outturn of the different bhadoi crops of the Presidency was estimated at 79 per cent. of the normal as against the same estimate last year.

Jute.

315. Conditions were, on the whole, favourable for sowing. Monsoon weather proved beneficial for the growth in West Bengal and for harvesting operations in North and East Bengal, although in the early part of the season temporary lack of steeping water was felt in parts of North Bengal. Area and outturn, excepting Cooch Behar and Tripura States, were respectively estimated at 2,142,300 acres and 7,045,600 bales of 400 lb.

Winter rice crops.

316. Ante-monsoon showers in March and in early April being defective, preparatory tillage for and the sowings of broadcast paddy were somewhat delayed. Subsequently good rainfall in the latter part of April and May facilitated the operations. Rainfall in June was sufficient for preparation of lands for winter paddy seedlings and sowings in seed-beds. With good rainfall in July, the transplantation of winter paddy was carried on under favour-

able conditions, except in parts of West and North Bengal where subsequent excessive rainfall in the former and drought in the latter hindered operations. Good rainfall with alternate sunshine in September and October generally favoured the growth and final development of the transplanted winter paddy. Insects caused damage to the crop in some East Bengal districts resulting in the decrease of outturn to some extent. On the whole, a satisfactory outturn was reaped for the province. The average outturn for the province was estimated at 81 per cent. of the normal as against 90 per cent. last year.

Sugarcane.

317. At the outset the weather was generally favourable for planting of the crop. Subsequent conditions also proved beneficial for the germination and growth, except in parts of East Bengal where drought somewhat affected the crop. The weather was generally favourable both for planting and for germination. Subsequent conditions proved also beneficial to its growth except in places in some North and East Bengal districts, where heavy rain caused damage to the crop. Harvesting operations were carried on under favourable conditions and the outturn for the province was satisfactory. The outturn for the province worked out at 86 per cent. of the normal as against 94 per cent. last year.

Rabi crops.

318. The rainfall in October though below the normal was adequate for preparatory tillage and sowing of the crops which commenced generally at the normal time. Drought in November which continued up till early January somewhat affected the early sown crops, but general rainfall towards the end of January improved prospects. In the middle of February rainfall with hail-storms caused damage to the crops especially in some North Bengal districts. The season, on the whole, was fair. The outturn of different rabi crops for the province worked out at 78 per cent. of the normal as against 81 per cent. last year.

Cotton.

319. The weather was fairly favourable at sowing time. Subsequent conditions were favourable for the growth except in Tripura State and Mymensingh where heavy rain somewhat affected the early crop in places. Dry weather from November onwards was favourable for harvesting of the early crop and a satisfactory outturn was reaped for the province. The outturn of the late crop was fair. The total outturn of the cotton (including Tripura State) was estimated at 23,802 bales as against the same estimate last year.

Area under cultivation.

320. The total cropped area is estimated at 28,575,900 acres this year, as against 28,174,700 acres last year.

The figures for the principal crops are shown in the following table:—

Name of crops.	Normal area in acres.	Area cultivated during 1932-33 in acres.	Area cultivated during 1933-34 in acres.
Rice ..	22,944,000	21,771,400	21,672,500
Food grains other than rice ..	1,996,100	1,505,700	1,507,600
Jute ..	2,310,300	1,611,200	2,142,300
Oilseeds ..	1,331,800	1,045,900	1,018,700
Tobacco ..	293,000	281,000	285,700
Sugarcane ..	201,100	233,200	256,600

Prices.

321. The harvest of winter and autumn rice and sugarcane was generally satisfactory. There was slight improvement in prices towards the latter part of the season as compared with that of the previous year. The price of jute, on the other hand, showed no marked improvement owing to lack of demand for manufactured goods.

Horticulture.

[Annual Report of the Royal Botanic Garden and other gardens in Calcutta and of the Lloyd Botanic Garden, Darjeeling, for the year 1933-34.]

Royal Botanic Garden.

322. During the year a notable addition to the amenities of the garden was made by the opening of a refreshment kiosk in the building over the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation Tunnel Shaft exit on the river side. It is excellently equipped and offers all sorts of refreshments and recreations to garden visitors. The season was on the whole a favourable one for garden operations and both in the open and in the nurseries steady progress was maintained. The variety of cold weather annuals grown in and around Calcutta is increasing year by year, and these together with the flowering perennials made the garden a place of great beauty. Though the neighbourhood of Calcutta is not in all respects suitable for fruit culture, there is a need for the improvement of local strains, and work in this direction has now been taken up. As a beginning a collection has been made of young plants of those varieties of fruit regarding which experimental knowledge is lacking. The garden collections of beautiful and useful tropical and semi-tropical trees and shrubs were further enriched during the year by additions of new species. The experiments on *Amherstia nobilis* are producing useful results and being

continued. In the herbarium, work on acquisition, identification, distribution and loan proceeded throughout the year. Important amongst the materials for identification were the collections belonging to Assam, the flora of which is under preparation by Mr. Das of the Forests Department. A number of species new to science have been recognised in course of this work. Amongst the distributed lots a collection for the School of Tropical Medicine, Calcutta, for a small reference herbarium of medicinal plants, and a fair collection of Malayan duplicates for the Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun, were important. Amongst specimens sent on loan, a consignment of the genus *Derris*, numbering some 947 sheets was sent to the Bureau of Manila, and another of 184 sheets of *Rhododendron* to Edinburgh. The specimens received on exchange included a Japanese collection of 200 sheets, the flora of which is but feebly represented at Sibpur. Aquatics of the genera *Vallisneria, Azolla, Lemna* and *Ceratophyllum* were sent to Germany for research purposes. *Selaginella* species of the garden were sent to Dr. Alston at the British Museum.

Noteworthy amongst the garden publications are:—

(1) The Role of Aquatic Vegetation in the biology of Indian Waters.

(2) Distribution of wild Conifers in, and the living Conifers of, the Indian Empire.

(3) Note on *Ficus Indica* and Allied Species by the Curator of the Herbarium; and Mr. Badhwar's research on the Santonin bearing Artemistas of the North-West. A very material advance in our knowledge of the problems that underlie a successful development of a Santonin industry in North India is available from Mr. Badhwar's work.

Calcutta Gardens.

323. Improvements have been effected in all the gardens by the planting of new ornamental trees and shrubs. The Curzon Gardens have become more parklike by the growth of the young flowering trees and shrubs planted some years ago. The lease of the tank in the Eden Garden for fishing purposes had to be withdrawn on account of failure on the part of the lessee to maintain the tank in a clean condition.

Lloyd Botanic Garden, Darjeeling.

324. Considerable success was achieved during the year in the direction of enhancing the æsthetic and horticultural value of the garden. In the list of exchanges received from outside India was a particularly valuable lot of seeds from the Sun Yat Sen Memorial Park, China. The seeds from China, which include much that will be new to the garden, have germinated very well.

Cinchona Plantations and Factory.

[Report of the Government Cinchona Plantations and Factory for the year 1933-34.]

Plantations.

325. The total area under cinchona at the end of the year was 2,686 acres. Extensions amounting to 132·5 acres were carried out during the year under review in the Munsong Plantation only. A harvest of 1,131,960 lb. of bark was collected during the year in both the Mungpoo and Munsong Plantation against 1,445,762 lb. in the previous year. The Mungpoo plantation is relatively free of disease and it continues to be in a thriving condition, thus making good the losses caused by disease in Munsong. In the latter plantation disease seems to have caused serious damage, and attempts to eradicate it have not yet met with success. The work of investigation into the disease has been in progress at Pusa, Toklai, Delhi and Edinburgh, and during the year, Munsong was visited by Miss Burt of the Lady Hardinge Medical College, Delhi, with a view to obtaining further specimens to work on. In Munsong all the bark harvested came from the dead and dying trees with the exception of a small area of 4 acres coppiced in the Sangseer division. A fire broke out during the year under review at the bottom of this plantation alongside the Sikkim-Bengal boundary, but it was prevented from spreading to areas containing cinchona. The cause of the fire is unknown.

Factory.

326. Altogether 1,436,796 lb. of dried bark were treated in the Factory during the year, the largest quantity on record. Of this 1,268,365 lb. were Bengal bark and the rest belonged to the Government of India. In recent years all the quinine has been extracted in the crude or semi-purified form and thus stocked. The total quantity of quinine sulphate manufactured during the year was 51,094 lb., of which 5,366 lb. belonged to the Government of India. The cost of manufacture from the bark amounted to Rs. 2·721 per pound. The total quantity of cinchona febrifuge manufactured during the year was 28,523 lb., of which 3,394 lb. represents the share of the Government of India. The manufacturing cost of the febrifuge was Rs. 1·820 per pound. As in previous years the demand for cinchona febriguge exceeded the supply. The deficiency was met in part by taking 5,054 lb. from Government of India stocks, but these are now running low and will no longer be available for the Bengal area of distribution.

Finance.

327. The gross receipts were Rs. 9,73, 244 and after deducting Rs. 45,486, due to the Government of India on account of the sale of that Government's febrifuge powder, Rs. 47,413 due to the Jail Department for distribution work and Rs. 5,293 on account of sales outstanding, the net receipts amounted to Rs. 8,75,053. The total

expenditure of the department including pensionary charges was Rs. 4,33,169. The receipts and expenditure were higher by Rs. 2,37,774 and Rs. 37,797, respectively, than in the previous year. The profit on the year's working, according to the profit valuation account, amounted to Rs. 4,01,722 as compared with Rs. 4,38,238 in 1932-33, which would seem to indicate that the financial result of the year's working was not so satisfactory as in the previous year. Actually, however, the reverse is the case. In 1932-33 sales increased by approximately Rs. 2½ lakhs and net receipts (excess of actual money receipts over actual money expenditure) by about Rs. 2 lakhs. The accumulation of stocks has also been checked. Whereas in 1932-33 the value of the stocks held rose by approximately Rs. 3½ lakhs, the corresponding rise in 1933-34 was only about Rs. 8,000, a very satisfactory result, which however, was due to special causes, notably the heavy sale of bark to the Government of Madras and the larger amount purchased by Government itself for free distribution.

Forests.

[Annual Progress Report on Forest Administration in the Presidency of Bengal for the year ending the 31st March 1934.]

Area.

328. During the year under review, there was a decrease of 6·80 acres of reserved forests in the Northern Circle, owing to the disforestation of this area in connection with the construction of the Riyang-Kalimpong Ropeway; while in the Southern Circle, 11 square miles were added to the reserved forests, consequent on the reservation of Khas Mahal forests in the Chittagong division. The net increase in the reserved forests of the two circles thus amounted to 10 square miles and 633·20 acres. Forty-nine square miles comprising the Bhowal forests under the Court of Wards were declared protected forests for management by the Forest Department and this area was included in the Dacca-Mymensingh Forest division. Four square miles in the non-Araipara portion of the Attia forests in this division were released. The area of the protected forests thus increased by 45 square miles. As a result of these changes, the total area of all forests at the end of the year under review was about 10,639 square miles or 14·02 per cent. of the total area of the Presidency as against 10·583 square miles in the year 1932-33. During the year under review, the reservation of 11·41 square miles in the Chittagong division was finally settled. In the Northern Circle, the total length of boundaries decreased from 1,436 to 1,423 miles owing to revision and remeasurement; and, in the Chittagong division, two hundred and eighty miles of exterior boundaries of new reserved forests were demarcated at a cost of Rs. 6,783. One hundred and sixty-six

miles of new boundaries were artificially demarcated in the Bhowal forests of the Dacca-Mymensingh division at a cost of Rs. 300. In the two circles, 1,005 miles of boundaries were repaired at a total cost of Rs. 7,970. Topographical survey to settle the dispute about the boundary of the Maini Head Water Reserve and Kassalong Reserves with the Tripura State which was commenced during the year 1932-33 was continued this year. No other surveys were carried out by the Survey of India.

Communications and buildings.

329. Owing to want of funds due to financial stringency no new roads and bridges were constructed during the year except only one bridge constructed in the Buxa division at a cost of Rs. 255. The total expenditure incurred by the construction of new buildings was Rs. 9,235 against Rs. 16,644 in the previous year. Although the need for thorough repairs to buildings is being keenly felt in many cases in the Northern Circle want of funds prevented much progress in this direction. The total cost of repairs to buildings in the two circles was Rs. 36,811 against Rs. 36,918 in the previous year.

Working plans.

330. The new working plan of the Kurseong division was under print during the year. The working plan of the Chittagong division was due for revision during this year, but work was continued under its prescriptions. The prescriptions of the sanctioned working plans were followed so far as circumstances permitted and all deviation from them were duly sanctioned.

Utilisation.

331. Departmental extraction of timber was carried out chiefly in the Kurseong and Buxa divisions. The demand for departmentally collected fuel fell still further during the year and there was accumulation of stock. The most noticeable item of the year has been the establishment of a trade in matchwood trees. One thousand eight hundred and fifty-eight tons of matchwood were railed from the Buxa division to Calcutta during the year. In the Southern Circle, departmental operation was undertaken in the Chittagong Hill Tracts division. Although the market prices at Chittagong continued to be dull during the year, still it is satisfactory to note that out of 31,264 cubic feet of logs extracted departmentally in the Chittagong Hill Tracts division at a cost of Rs. 8,870, 28,095 cubic feet when sold fetched Rs. 17,778. In the Chittagong Depot, 21,073 cubic feet of logs were sold to Messrs. Damodar Dutta and Jiban Krishna Mohajan of Chittagong for Rs. 12,888 and 4,611 cubic feet of timber were sold to Assam Bengal Railway for Rs. 3,246. Various attempts are being made by the Forest Utilisation Officer to get into new markets for departmentally extracted timbers, and it is satisfactory to note that the railways are beginning to obtain supplies of timbers

from Bengal for purposes other than sleepers. The North-Western Railway has taken *Sal*, *Kainjal* and *Sissoo* logs to the value of Rs. 22,276, the Assam-Bengal Railway has taken *Sal*, *Garjan* and *Sissoo* logs and sawn *Sal* to the value of Rs. 19,571 and the Eastern Bengal Railway has taken *Sal* and *Sissoo* logs and *Sal* scantlings and floorboards to the value of Rs. 24,316. Wagon floor-boards were supplied to the Sleeper Control Officer for use on the Bengal-Nagpur Railway and Eastern Bengal Railway to the value of Rs. 39,000. In the Northern Circle, Messrs. Kanyalall Lakhiram of Beech Tea Estate entered into an agreement for the extraction of a minimum of 15,000 cubic feet of *Khair* trees (*Acacia catechu*) from the North Borojhar Reserve in the Buxa division, for manufacturing kutch. They actually extracted 23,760 cubic feet of *Khair* trees and paid a royalty of Rs. 5,197-8. The total value of the year's sale of timber, fuel, bamboos, grazing and minor produce rose from Rs. 3,80,075 in the previous year to Rs. 4,52,414. In the Southern Circle, timber continued to be disposed of by auction at royalty rate or on permits as usual. The total value of the year's sales including commutation fees in the Southern Circle fell from Rs. 7,46,990 in the previous year to Rs. 7,29,572.

Financial results.

332. In the Northern Circle, all the divisions except Darjeeling and Kurseong contributed to an increase of revenue amounting to Rs. 33,005 as compared with 1932-33. A slight improvement in the timber market was also noticed during the year. In the Southern Circle, on the other hand, all the divisions except Chittagong Hill Tracts and the Dacca-Mymensingh divisions shared a decrease of revenue amounting to Rs. 42,161 as compared with the previous year. A comparison of the revenue and expenditure of the year with those of the previous year for the two circles, is given in the following statement:—

	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Surplus.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1932-33	15,11,717	15,08,613	3,104
1933-34	15,02,561	14,42,183	60,378

General.

333. The total value of sales of forest produce was Rs. 11,81,986 as against Rs. 11,27,065 in the previous year. The value of forest produce granted free of royalty was Rs. 59,750 as against Rs. 64,114 in the previous year. The total value of minor produce disposed of at scheduled rates was Rs. 4,81,880, as against Rs. 5,06,784. The two horns of rhinoceros which remained undisposed of in the preceding year lost weight by 37½ tolas due to shrinkage and drying. One of those weighing 45½ tolas was sold for Rs. 369-11 and the other weighing 29 tolas could not be sold during the year. The total outstanding revenue at the close of the

year was Rs. 2,04,212 as against Rs. 1,94,903 at the year's commencement. In the Northern Circle, there was a slight decrease of outstanding amounting to Rs. 319 and the outstandings in the Southern Circle increased slightly by Rs. 9,628. In the Northern Circle, two elephants gave birth to two male calves and in the Southern Circle, the Kunki elephant "Sitalkali" died on the 21st May 1933. So, the total number of elephants on the stock list of the two circles at the end of the year was 25 as against 24 in the previous year. In the Northern Circle one man was killed by a tiger, two by a bear, and one by a wild elephant. In the Southern Circle, 47 persons were killed by tigers as against 15 in the preceding year. This was the highest record since 1916-17. Every attempt was made to keep the menace under control by engaging shikaries. In this circle 26 tiger shooting permits were granted to professional shikaries to kill tigers during the year and Rs. 1,000 were paid as rewards for killing tigers. Thirty-seven permits for shooting deers were issued during the year against 30 in the previous year. In the Buxa division the game reserve whose main object was to afford a sanctuary for the remaining rhinoceros in Bengal was maintained and the collection of confidential information with regard to rhinoceros and other poachers in the vicinity of the game reserve was continued during the year. Four cases of the possession of unlicensed guns and ammunition were detected by the game warden and convictions secured in each case. Some cases have also been detected by the police. The collection of tolls for fishing in the rivers of the reserved forests in the district of Khulna was continued, and Rs. 10,494 was realised during the year against Rs. 10,518 in the previous year. All toll and sub-stations were managed departmentally during the year except the Hunger toll station which was in charge of the Manager of the Court of Wards estate and the Amlighat joint toll station was under the management of the Tripura State.

Veterinary Department.

[Annual Reports of the Bengal Veterinary College and of the Civil Veterinary Department for the year 1933-34.]

Bengal Veterinary College.

334. The total number of students on the rolls of the College at the beginning of the session was 201, of whom 184 continued their studies throughout the session. The number of Bengali students was 60 as against 58 in the preceding year. The results of the diploma and annual examinations were satisfactory.

College Hospital.

335. During the year 2,600 patients were treated. The year on the whole was a comparatively healthy one for the livestock of the province, the total number of deaths being 22,674 as against 24,884 in the preceding year. The most striking decrease was under the head "Rinderpest," the total loss on this account being

14,064 as against 16,694 in the previous year. There was, however, a substantial increase in the death rate from Hæmorrhagic septicæmia and other contagious diseases during the year. Inoculation and vaccination campaigns were organised in 683 outbreaks and 155,298 animals were inoculated as against 191,172 in 748 outbreaks during the previous year. An important feature of the year was the successful introduction of goat tissue vaccine for antirinderpest inoculation. By the end of the year some 28,000 animals had been protected with this vaccine, and there was no recurrence of disease among the vaccinated animals. The immunity given by this method is of long duration, and it is extremely economical: it will eventually be possible to inoculate 16 animals at a cost of one anna as against one animal at a cost of 1½ anna by the serum method. During the year the Veterinary Assistant Surgeons visited 16,068 villages and treated or castrated 155,866 animals. The number of patients treated at the 49 hospitals and dispensaries fell from 81,255 to 77,808, the decrease being mainly due to the general healthy condition of cattle during the year.

Zoological Garden, Calcutta.

[Annual Report of the Honorary Committee for the year 1933-34.]

336. During the year the number of visitors fell from 930,004 in the previous year to 911,621, and the gate money receipts from Rs. 62,231 to Rs. 59,812. The number of one anna visitors during the Fancy Fair days rose from 19,559 in the previous year to 21,480, thereby justifying the policy of admitting such visitors on these days into the grounds of the garden not reserved for the Fancy Fair. Notwithstanding the fall in the entire receipts owing to economic depression, the financial condition of the garden was on the whole satisfactory. The total receipts from all sources were Rs. 1,20,709 as against Rs. 1,19,086 in the previous year. The general condition of the animals was satisfactory and the death rate normal. A serious loss was, however, sustained by the death of the male chimpanzee "Mulloo" and the male orangoutang "Munka." Gifts of important animals were received from the Raja of Nowagarh, Sir David Ezra and Messrs. I. Hooper and F. Buck. Mr. W. K. Dods, the Vice-President of the garden, obtained a constant supply of aquatic birds. Exchanges of animals and birds were effected with the Zoological Societies of London, Edinburgh, Sydney, Ceylon, Karachi, Rotterdam and Adelaide, as well as with Mr. J. Delacour of Marseilles, Mr. L. Hagenbeck of Hamburg, Messrs. G. B. Chapman, Limited, and the Raja of Talcher. There was a good display of flowers, especially Dahlias, and exhibits from the garden secured several prizes at the Agri-Horticultural Show.

Co-operative Societies.

[Report on the working of the Co-operative Societies in Bengal for the year 1934.]

Development.

337. The movement has been still passing through a crisis, though due to its inherent strength it has weathered the fifth year of acute economic depression without any serious set-back. The policy of the department was confined as in the previous year to consolidating the position of the credit movement and improving their working, by the collection of overdues from village societies and by the reconstitution of bad societies. Accordingly the organisation of new societies was practically stopped during the year. The policy of consolidation involved (*a*) a more extensive adoption of the system of monthly repayment of interest, (*b*) encouragement of subsidiary occupations such as cottage industries and subsidiary crops such as sugarcane, potatoes, etc., with a view to increasing the income and consequently the repaying capacity of the members, and (*c*) a detailed investigation to pick out the wilful defaulters with a view to putting pressure on them to repay their loans. The result of this policy brought about an increase in the collection of the dues of central banks from Rs. 75·97 lakhs to Rs. 87·72 lakhs, in the total membership from 819,728 to 824,413, in the total working capital from Rs. 17·24 lakhs (revised figure) to Rs. 17·79 lakhs (an increase of 3·1 per cent. against 5·2 per cent. of the previous year) and in the actual cash employed from Rs. 12·10 crores to Rs. 12·87 crores. There was, however, a decline in the number of societies from 23,667 to 23,473.

It was felt, that for the stability and success of the movement it was necessary to secure a more intimate contact of the departmental officers with the members of the village societies than had hitherto obtained. To achieve this object the area under each Inspector of Co-operative Societies was divided into audit circles consisting of 75 to 100 societies. Each circle so constituted has been placed under an Auditor of Co-operative Societies. The central banks were persuaded to place their Supervisors under the control of the Circle Auditors. The duties assigned to the Circle Auditor were to maintain a record of the economic history of the members of societies under his charge, to encourage the formation of an advisory body in the circle for improving the working of the societies, to promote schemes of rural reconstruction and to help the central banks in the collection of their dues from the village societies.

One of the reasons for the increase of overdues in respect of principal and interest was found to be that while the repaying capacity of the members of societies abnormally deteriorated there

was no corresponding reduction in the rate of interest at which they borrowed. It was, therefore, felt necessary to reduce the rate of interest charged to borrowing members of societies. With a view to achieve this end conferences of depositors were arranged in a number of central banks and the depositors were persuaded to reduce the rate of interest on their deposits. As a result of this move, the rate of interest on deposits in a large number of central banks has been reduced by about 3 per cent. Corresponding reduction has also been made in the interest charged to members of societies which has been reduced to 12½ per cent. and in some cases to 10 15/16 per cent. from the usual rate of 15 per cent. It is hoped that these reductions in the rate of interest will be an incentive to members of societies to make payment of interest more regularly and adequately.

In the direction of improvement of the repaying capacity of the members of societies steps were taken to introduce in the area of certain central banks profitable spring crops such as sunn-hemp, groundnut, linseed and sugar-cane through the local co-operative agricultural associations. The industrial organisations of the movement suffered considerably due to trade depression. The handloom industry could not make headway against the competition of cheap mill-made fabrics while the silk industry languished due mainly to the competition of foreign silk.

The non-agricultural credit side of the movement developed rapidly and continued to maintain its prosperity unabated. Middle-class people who form the membership of these societies are deriving benefits in more than one way. The societies not only supply cheap credit to their members in times of need but also serve as a profitable field for investment of their savings. Further, in the salary-earners' societies the institution of provident deposit and death benefit schemes has been extremely beneficial to the members. These societies are gradually bringing into the fold of co-operation an increasing number of educated middle class men and thereby considerably strengthening the movement.

A larger demand for the irrigation societies and anti-malaria and health societies was made during the year which amply testified to the popularity of these types of societies. But on account of the restriction on new organisation it was not possible to increase the number of these societies to any appreciable extent.

A scheme for training of qualified candidates for the post of supervisors of central banks was taken in hand by the Bengal Co-operative Organisation Society, Limited, towards the close of the year. A batch of 30 educated young men, mostly graduates, was selected for three months' training. A more elaborate training

scheme has subsequently been formulated by the department for the training of the departmental officers, the staff of the central banks and members of the village societies which has been approved by representatives of the co-operative societies at the general meeting of the Bengal Co-operative Organisation Society, Limited.

Agricultural credit.

338. All new organisation of these societies having almost been entirely stopped, the total number of agricultural societies fell further from 20,009 to 19,892. The number of members also declined from 465,237 to 457,083, but the working capital increased slightly from Rs. 5·69 crores to Rs. 5·73 crores. The paid up share capital rose from Rs. 55·27 lakhs to Rs. 55·88 lakhs, whereas deposits from members further declined to Rs. 19·78 lakhs as against Rs. 19·83 lakhs of the previous year. The reserve fund, however, increased from Rs. 1,33·64 lakhs to Rs. 1,50·45 lakhs. The internal capital of these societies therefore increased from Rs. 2,08·74 to Rs. 2,26·13 lakhs, i.e., from 36·6 per cent. to 39·4 per cent., while borrowings from provincial and central banks amounted to Rs. 3,28·72 lakhs or 57·3 per cent. of the working capital as against 60·1 per cent. of the last year. The issue of loans by these societies amounted to Rs. 32·74 lakhs as against Rs. 35·83 lakhs of the previous year. But for the untiring efforts of the departmental officers with regard to collection, the position in regard to repayment would have been considerably worse. There was a slight decrease in the actual repayments by members which were Rs. 36·36 lakhs as against Rs. 36·55 lakhs in the preceding year. The position of the overdues, however, improved a little being Rs. 3,40 lakhs or 79·9 per cent. as against Rs. 3,46·59 lakhs or 80·9 per cent. of the preceding year. The position of the overdues has, however, still remained a disturbing factor. The central banks are alive to the situation and taking all possible steps in this direction in consultation with the department. There is, however, one relieving feature with regard to debts outstanding from members of village societies which is that out of a total debt of Rs. 4,25 lakhs as much as Rs. 2,26 lakhs or 53 per cent. is the members' own money. The measures adopted at the end of the year for closer supervision of the working of the societies by the establishment of audit circles and for giving relief to the members by reduction of the rate of interest were not fully given effect to during the year. The result of these measures will be watched with interest. But unless some suitable measures could be invented to increase the income of the members it is uncertain how far the tightening of the official control and the relief measures alone will succeed in producing the desired effect to any appreciable extent. The establishment of co-operative land mortgage banks

during the year will leave a landmark in the history of the co-operative movement in the province. Five such banks were sanctioned by Government for providing easy credit facilities in the shape of long term loans to the agriculturists repayable in small instalments not exceeding 20 years. A capital to the extent of Rs. 12½ lakhs for these five banks was also sanctioned to be raised by floating debentures by the Bengal Provincial Co-operative Bank, Limited, the interest on the entire amount being guaranteed by Government to the debenture holders during the whole period of the currency of the debentures. Only 2 out of the 5 proposed land mortgage banks could be established before the close of the year.

Agricultural societies other than credit. (Purchase and sale societies.)

339. The number of these societies fell from 85 to 74, their membership from 11,468 to 9,365 and their total working capital from Rs. 6,61,249 to Rs. 5,59,304. The Central Paddy Sale Society at Calcutta could not improve upon its last year's working owing to unsteady rates of paddy and mismanagement in some of the affiliated societies which could not send their supplies during the year. The business of the society was also affected as a warning notice was served by the Irrigation Department at the beginning of the season to close the Khal which is the main waterway for import of paddy and rice to the society. The society, however, was able to balance its budget and made a nominal profit by cutting down establishment charges. The Gosava Rice Mill did comparatively better business this year and earned a profit of Rs. 3,669. The Bakarganj Sunderban Sale Society continued to earn a good profit, and the Donovan Rice Mill attached to it also worked very well during the year. The mill besides raising the price of paddy of the members made a profit of Rs. 9,746 after working only 110 days. The mill has so far successfully ousted the local *beparies* who so long had a monopoly business and dictated the price which the unorganised growers had to accept. The services rendered by the mill are, therefore, keenly appreciated by the colonists. The Naogaon Ganja Cultivators' Co-operative Society in the district of Rajshahi sold 1,689 maunds of ganja and 246 maunds of bhang against 1,715 maunds of ganja and 266 maunds of bhang in the preceding year. The decline in sale is due to production of ganja in Bihar and Orissa as also to the general economic depression. The society, however, continued to contribute towards numerous local works of public utility as before.

Irrigation and drainage societies.

340. There was a slight increase in the number of these societies from 932 to 937 and in their membership from 22,832 to 22,907. Five new irrigation societies were registered in the

Burdwan division making up a total of 922 in that division as against 917 of the previous year. The total irrigable area served by the irrigation societies was 156,781 bighas of land as against 150,555 bighas in the preceding year. Besides the useful work done by the irrigation tank societies generally some of the bigger schemes such as the Malik Proja Bandhu o' Jalasarbaraha Samity in the district of Khulna, Dadpur Douki Society and Bahara Mriganyana Society in the district of Birbhum did satisfactory work. There was a larger demand for new organisation of tank irrigation societies particularly from the districts of Bankura and Birbhum.

Agricultural associations.

341. The total number of these associations at the end of the year declined from 38 to 37. The Naogaon Agricultural Association started a sugar factory and encouraged the cultivation of cane in the Ganja Mahal area with a view to supplementing the income of the members which deteriorated on account of the decline in the sale of ganja. The factory has not yet been able to work on a profit. The Joypur Krishi Samity in the district of Noakhali worked satisfactorily and earned profit. Attempt is being made to improve the working of the other associations.

Production and sale societies.

342. There was a slight fall in the number of milk societies from 269 to 264 during the year. The primary milk societies affiliated to the Calcutta Milk Union supplied milk valued at Rs. 1,49,928 as against Rs. 1,69,168 of the last year. The profit earned by them suffered a corresponding reduction from Rs. 8,442 to Rs. 5,785. The reason for the decline in the business is the prevailing economic depression as well as unfair competition of private dealers which required a drastic reduction in the selling rates of milk. Of the primary milk societies in other divisions, the Uttarpara Milk Society in the Burdwan division worked fairly well. The milk movement in other divisions is not yet showing signs of improvement on account of economic depression and abnormal fall in the price of milk. The Malda Co-operative Sugar Mill made a promising start, while the Naogaon Sugar Factory could not do satisfactory work.

Non-agricultural: (a) Credit.

343. Non-agricultural credit societies rose from 526 to 531, their membership from 188,532 to 202,163 and their working capital from Rs. 3,54 lakhs to Rs. 4,01 lakhs. The paid up share capital of these societies also increased from Rs. 74·94 lakhs to Rs. 82·94 lakhs and their reserve fund from Rs. 23·89 lakhs to Rs. 26·19 lakhs. Rs. 2,91 lakhs was issued as loans to members against Rs. 2,59 lakhs of the preceding year and Rs. 2,29 lakhs was realised against Rs. 2,25 lakhs of the last year. The overdues at the end of the year were Rs. 44·75 lakhs or 12·6 per cent. as

against 20 per cent. in the preceding year. The amount of profit also increased from Rs. 9·54 lakhs to Rs. 11·66 lakhs. Some improvement in collection of overdues was noticeable in these societies in spite of the unfavourable conditions under which they had to work. The Calcutta Urban Banks continued to prosper steadily while the Chittagong group worked very well. The societies organised for the benefit of the unthrifty menials and depressed classes, such as sweepers, etc., have been successful in improving the moral and material condition of their members.

(*b*) Stores and supply societies.

344. The number of these societies fell from 55 to 53 this year and their membership from 10,141 to 9,202. There was, however, an increase in the total sale from Rs. 2·58 lakhs to Rs. 3·39 lakhs. This type of societies is not on the whole working well due to disloyalty of the shareholders, lack of business experience and large credit sale. Unless these defects are sufficiently removed the success of these societies are remote. The Railway Co-operative Stores at Kharagpur, however, worked well.

(*c*) Artisan societies.

345. Due to trade depression the artisan societies generally could not do good business during the year and suffered loss. Some of them, such as Illumbazar Toy-makers' Society in the district of Birbhum, and the four Conchshell Societies in the district of Bankura have started working on credit business. The Sutanara Blacksmith Society in Pabna and the Amirabad Madhabpur Gur Manufacturing Society in Chittagong, however, improved their working.

(*d*) Fishermen's societies.

346. There was a further decline in the number of these societies from 106 to 105, but their membership increased slightly from 3,914 to 3,970. The two important societies in the Presidency division are the Captain Bhery Fishermen's Society and the Bidyadhari Fishermen's Society. The Bidyadhari Spill Society which secured the lease of fishery in the year before last, at a very high rent owing to competition of middlemen, sustained a loss during the year. It had to incur heavy expenses in reclaiming the fishery and effecting necessary improvements. The society, however, has been able to secure a lease from Government for another 5 years at a reduced rental and is trying to retrieve its previous losses. The Captain Bhery Society continues to work at a profit. The Naliapur Fishery Society in the Burdwan division has obtained a lease of Government fishery and worked well. The fishermen's societies in the Dacca division have not shown signs of improvement, while these societies in the Rajshahi division worked satisfactorily but on credit basis. In the Chittagong division, the Dhaleswari-Meghna-Padma Society earned a small profit.

(*e*) Weaver's societies.

347. The number of these societies increased from 330 to 340, and their membership from 5,850 to 5,887. In the Presidency

division the Bagerhat Weaving Union has been showing considerable progress in spite of the general trade depression and earned a fair profit. The Weavers' Societies in the district of Bankura, stood at 48 as in the previous year. The financial condition of these societies was not in general favourable. The societies in the Dacca division were 111 as in the last year. Their membership, however, rose from 1,638 to 1,658. They earned a profit of Rs. 2,754 during the year as against Rs. 2,866 in the previous year. The societies in the Rajshahi division did not fare well while in the Chittagong division the Moinamoti Tantubai Samity worked at a profit. It is now recognised on all hands that the handloom cottage weavers have been seriously handicapped in the competition with cheap mill-made cloths. It is extremely difficult to develop the handloom industry unless the weavers could be supplied with cheap yarn, improved looms and expert advice. Besides, suitable arrangement should also be made for marketing their finished products. This problem is now engaging attention.

(*f*) Silk societies.

348. The number of silk societies remained steady at 77 as in the last year. Their working capital and profits fell from Rs. 93,384 and Rs. 1,969 to Rs. 91,913 and Rs. 295, respectively. In the Presidency division the Jangipur Co-operative Industrial Association is just paying its way but could not develop owing to absence of marketing facilities. The society has good prospects if the weavers could be trained in the improved method of silk reeling and weaving. The societies in the Burdwan and Rajshahi divisions could not prosper as the price of cocoons was very low.

(*g*) Zamindary societies.

349. The number of these societies fell from 4 to 3 during the year. The Bengal Youngmen's Zamindary Society was engaged in consolidating its position by realising its dues from members as also by undertaking works of rural reconstruction. The Tamluk Zamindary Society earned a profit after recovering the loss of the previous year. In the Chittagong division Badarkhali Colonisation Scheme is progressing steadily. The Badarkhali Block No. I Society comprising an area of 492·02 acres of land have been allotted to 39 members at 10 acres each. The area covered by Block No. II Society measures 1,418·71 acres which has been embanked and reclaimed and brought under paddy cultivation. So far 34 families out of 105 for which provision has been made have settled down in this block and the remaining members have executed agreements to settle as early as possible. The reclamation of Block No. III comprising an area of 1,600 acres has not been taken up yet due to the prevailing economic condition. The Colonisation Scheme has shown considerable promise of success.

(*h*) Anti-malaria and public health societies.

350. There was a further increase in the number of registered anti-malaria societies from 927 to 940 though their membership fell slightly from 18,270 to 18,268. Of the 360 societies of this type in the Burdwan division, there are 134 societies in the district of Hooghly and 112 societies in the district of Burdwan. Some of the societies in the Serampore and Arambagh subdivisions in the Hooghly district have been doing excellent work and have fully justified their existence by eradicating malaria from their area of operation. The Purbasthali, Barakayabati, Mukshimpara, Akalpous and Guptapara Societies in the Kalna subdivision are also doing very useful work. Of the 47 societies in the Midnapore district, the Chandpur Society in the Tamluk subdivision, the Harinagar, Natuk and Khoirati Societies in the Ghatal subdivision, Madhya Darua and Paschim Darua in Contai subdivision are doing very good work. In the Dacca division the societies in Manikganj subdivision continued to render very useful service by adopting malaria preventive measures such as clearing of jungles and eradication of water-hyacinth.

(*i*) Women's organisations.

351. No new women's organisation was registered during the year. Out of the 8 existing societies, the Tala Mahila Samity and the Nari Samabaya Mandir continued to do good work.

(*j*) Miscellaneous.

352. During the year, under report, the number of relief societies further increased from 45 to 48 and their membership and working capital also increased from 15,073 and Rs. 3,36,631 to 16,173 and Rs. 4,30,560, respectively. These societies on the whole worked quite satisfactorily.

(*k*) Rural reconstruction.

353. The number of these societies remained at 19 as in the previous year. The Bolpur group of societies, 11 in number, continued to do very useful work. These societies have created 3 medical centres and appointed a medical officer in each centre for giving medical relief to the members as well as for improving the sanitation of the localities. The measures adopted have considerably improved the health of the local people. Two new schemes were, however, inaugurated during the year—one at Gosava in Sir Daniel Hamilton's Estate and another at Birnagar in Nadia where rural reconstruction institutes have been started with a view to imparting vocational education to middle class young men. The training consists of agricultural and industrial subjects. It is proposed to organise these institutes into co-operative societies. An Inspector of Co-operative Societies has been specially deputed to Birnagar in order to assist the promoters in their work.

(*l*) House building societies.

354. There was no increase in the number of these societies The Dacca Co-operative Housing Society has not improved, but the Char Fasson Housing Society did good work during the year.

The Calcutta Suburban Colony has now 61 members with 64 plots of land allotted to them. Fifteen houses were built and 30 more were under construction during the year. This society has also introduced measures for improvement of sanitation and necessary amenities of life.

(*m*) Bengal Home Crofters' Association.

355. There was no marked improvement the activities of this association during the year though the society continued to do good work.

(*n*) Bengal Co-operative Insurance Society.

356. The society after reconstitution has much improved its working. Its volume of business during the year under review increased to the extent of 78 per cent. over last year's. The attention of the central and other societies of the province has been drawn to the new attractive features and the favourable terms offered by the society as embodied in Registrar of Co-operative Societies' General Circular No. II of 1934. It is gratifying to note that, in spite of the prevailing economic difficulties, the percentage of lapsed policies was only 3 per cent. of the total business done by the society.

Cattle insurance societies.

357. There are no cattle insurance societies in the province and it is not proposed to start any society of this type for some time to come.

Central Co-operative Anti-malaria Society.

358. The number of registered anti-malaria societies affiliated to the Central Co-operative Anti-malaria Society increased from 782 to 930 during the year. The society has successfully tried to awaken in the people of this province a desire for improvement of local sanitation and public health. By means of vigorous propaganda carried on through its journals and bulletins the society has succeeded in diverting public opinion to the necessity of improving a number of waterways and subsidiary channels.

Producers' unions.

359. There was a further decrease in the number of these unions from 15 to 14 during the year, most of which did not function satisfactorily.

Central banks.

360. The number of central banks was 118 as against 119 of last year. The registration of the Amtali Central Bank in the district of Bakarganj which had not commenced work was cancelled. The total number of affiliated societies further fell from 20,160 to 20,054 while their working capital rose from Rs. 5,13·72 lakhs to Rs. 5,19·14 lakhs. There was a decrease in the paid up share capital from Rs. 53·92 lakhs to Rs. 53·59 lakhs and an increase in the reserve and other funds from Rs. 40·89 lakhs to to Rs. 45·65 lakhs. The total amount of owned capital was 19·1 per cent. of the total working capital as against 18·4 per cent. of the preceding year. Deposits from individuals and other sources fell slightly from Rs. 2,90·19 lakhs to Rs. 2,89·95 lakhs while the

loans from the provincial and other co-operative banks rose slightly from Rs. 1,21·38 lakhs to Rs. 1,22·57 lakhs. There was a small rise in the loans made to banks and societies from Rs. 77·54 lakhs to Rs. 79·43 lakhs. The repayments increased from Rs. 75·97 lakhs to Rs. 87,·72 lakhs, the percentage of repayment being 22·2 per cent. of the amount outstanding at the beginning of the year as against 18·3 in last year. The total collection on account of principal and interest increased from Rs. 1,06·95 lakhs to Rs. 1,20·81 lakhs. The total profits earned by the banks amounted to Rs. 7·31 lakhs as against Rs. 7·44 lakhs in the previous year. The cost of management also decreased from Rs. 6·90 lakhs to Rs. 6·88 lakhs.

Bengal Provincial Co-operative Bank.

361. The Bengal Provincial Co-operative Bank had a membership of 156. The working capital of the bank rose from Rs. 2,27·21 lakhs (revised) to Rs. 2,27·88 lakhs, the paid up share capital from Rs. 16·68 lakhs to Rs. 16·91 lakhs, the reserve fund from Rs. 3·64 lakhs to Rs. 4 lakhs, and the special reserve fund from Rs. 7·20 lakhs to Rs. 9·57 lakhs. Deposits from members and others decreased from Rs. 1,99·17 lakhs to Rs. 1,96·88 lakhs. Loans made during the year were Rs. 60·04 lakhs while the repayments received were Rs. 56·45 lakhs. The bank maintained adequate fluid cover throughout the year and gained the increased confidence of the public. Owing to surfeit of funds the bank further reduced the rate of interest on all kinds of deposits. There was no necessity to operate on the cash credit of Rs. 30 lakhs granted by the Imperial Bank on the guarantee given by Government.

Bengal Co-operative Organisation Society.

362. The number of societies affiliated to this society increased from 18,338 to 18,830. The society did useful propaganda and publicity work during the year, though on account of the continuance of the economic depression there was a fall in the income of the society.

CHAPTER IX.

Public Works and Irrigation

Public Works.

363. During the year under review, Mr. W. C. Donnellan, Assistant Executive Engineer, died. The question of filling up the vacancy caused by his death by an officer recruited in Europe was under the consideration of Government. The posts of Executive Engineer, Workshops and Eastern Electrical Divisions, were brought on to the scale of the Bengal Senior Service of Engineers with retrospective effect, and Messrs. W. J. Trusler and C. L. E. Oakley, the incumbents of the posts, were granted the benefit of that scale. It was also decided that in future the three posts of Executive Engineer in the Electrical Circle should, for the purpose of posting, be considered to be of the same status. The services of Mr. A. H. Nunn, Assistant Executive Engineer, were placed temporarily at the disposal of the Government of Bihar and Orissa for a short period, towards the close of the year, in connection with the earthquake of 15th January 1934. The services of Mr. J. A. Stein, Superintending Engineer (officiating), were also lent to the Government of Bihar and Orissa to report on the damage done to the Residency in Khatmandu, Nepal. In view of the recommendation of the Bengal Retrenchment Committee all possible measures were adopted by this department to effect economy in the cost of administration. With the sanction of the Secretary of State for India, the post of Consulting Architect was held in abeyance. As a measure of retrenchment, the office of the Plumbing Expert, Bengal, was abolished, and one of the Subdivisions of the Suburban division was reduced. The Drawing Offices of the Superintending Engineer, Presidency Circle, and the Executive Engineers, City and Suburban divisions, were combined into one drawing office common to the three officers, and similarly those of the Superintending Engineer, Central Circle, and the Executive Engineer, Hijli division, were combined into one. In consequence of this re-arrangement, the Drawing staffs of the offices concerned were reduced. All possible reductions in the menial establishment of the department and of some of its subordinate offices were also effected during the year. The work of the construction of the Teesta Bridge having been completed, Establishment.

the Teesta Bridge Construction (temporary) subdivision under Darjeeling division was abolished during the year under review.

Communications.

364. The total expenditure on communications during the year was Rs. 25,71,363, of which Rs. 1,72,561 was spent by the Government of India on Central Communications. The total length of metalled road in the province (including Sikkim) rose from 3,562 to 3,612 miles and the length of unmetalled roads from 47,774 to 48,808 miles. These figures include 2,660 miles of metalled and 48,114 miles of unmetalled roads maintained from district and local funds but exclude roads maintained by municipalities.

The following works were completed during the year:—

Road Development Fund.

(1) Reconstruction of the Calcutta-Jessore Road from Calcutta to Barasat. (This work was also shown as completed in the report of the previous year but a sum of Rs. 17,176 was spent on it during the year under review. Improvement to several blind corners of the road still remains to be done.)

(2) Reconstruction of Diamond Harbour Road except the 30th mile beyond the bridge at Diamond Harbour.

(3) Reconstruction of the Ghoshpara Road up to 13 miles out of 16 miles. (This is a non-provincial road made over to the Public Works Department for reconstruction.)

(4) Reconstruction of a portion of the Chittagong Trunk Road from Mainamati to Barkanta, in Tippera district.

Communications—Provincial.

(5) Construction of an approach road to the Willingdon Bridge at Bally from Barrackpur Trunk Road to Hastie Road.

(6) Restoration of some portion of the Grand Trunk Road, south from Duke Road junction to the Sibpore police-station which had been opened up by the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation for the purpose of laying their mains. (This was a contribution work carried out at the expense of the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation.)

(7) Construction of a reinforced concrete bridge over the Teesta river at Teesta in the district of Darjeeling. The bridge which has been named "Anderson Bridge" was opened by His Excellency the Governor of Bengal on the 26th October 1933. The bridge withstood the severe earthquake in January 1934 without damage.

The following works were in progress during the year under review:—

Road Development Fund.

(1) Reconstruction of the Pabna-Ishurdi Road.

(2) Diversion of the Grand Trunk Road between 56th mile and 57th mile near Memari Bazar.

Communications—Provincial.

(3) Construction of a reinforced concrete arched bridge over the Sevoke river in the 12th mile of the Siliguri Sevoke Road in the district of Darjeeling.

(4) Construction of approaches to the roadways and footpaths on the Willingdon Bridge at Bally.

Special repairs and surface painting on roads in the Presidency, Central, and Northern Circles were also carried out.

Revenue and expenditure.

365. The revenue realised during the year amounted to Rs. 16·52 lakhs, of which Rs. 12·48 lakhs were provincial. The expenditure including communications (Rs. 25·71 lakhs) totalled Rs. 88·28 lakhs including about Rs. 18·71 lakhs for establishment, tools and plant. Of this total, Rs. 6·55 lakhs were for central works, Rs. 10·05 lakhs for provincial works (reserved) and Rs. 37·14 lakhs for provincial works (transferred). Rs. ·22 lakhs were expended on contribution works; Rs. 13·10 lakhs on grants-in-aid and Rs. 1·25 lakhs on "60—Civil Works not charged to Revenue."

Provincial Buildings.

366. Rs. 21·03 lakhs were spent under the head "Transferred" and Rs. 3·63 lakhs under "Reserve." Educational buildings accounted for Rs. 3·08 lakhs, buildings in connection with General Administration Rs. 6·28 lakhs, buildings relating to Administration of Justice, Police, Medical, Jails and other Civil Works Rs. 15·16 lakhs.

Of the several works completed, the more important ones are the following:—

Provision of additional temporary accommodation in the Mental Hospital, Dacca, now used as a jail, re-erection of the collapsed structures in the Mymensingh Jail, construction of a combined residence for Settlement and Assistant Settlement Officers at Rangpur, construction of 20 cells in the Central Jail at Rajshahi, additions and alterations in the Buxa Cantonment for accommodating detenus, construction of quarters for a Sub-Inspector of Police in the police-station at Arambagh, construction of a barrack and a cook-shed for Treasury guards at Balurghat, sinking a 3″ tube well with oil engine-pump and reservoir for the Detention Camp at Berhampore, installation of electric lights and fans in the Settlement Office and Press shed and in the Settlement and Assistant Settlement Officers' quarters at Rangpur, installation of electric lights and fans in the residence of the Superintendent of Police at Mymensingh and rewiring the electric installation in the new Physics laboratory in the Presidency College, Calcutta.

The following temporary buildings were constructed at Maijdi for accommodating the offices at Noakhali which were endangered by the Noakhali erosion:—

(1) Khasmahal office.

(2) Collector's office, and

(3) Magistrate's office.

The following two temporary buildings were in course of construction at the end of the year:—

(1) Police office, and

(2) Police barrack.

The Sadar Registration office at Noakhali being threatened by erosion, all the records were removed and record racks re-erected in the Jail Hospital and godown in the sub-jail compound at Noakhali and a temporary shed was also erected for the accommodation of the Registration office in the Collectorate compound.

The Sudharam police-station being washed away, the Public Works Department buildings in the compound of the same were dismantled and a temporary thana building with barrack was constructed in the Collectorate compound at Noakhali.

The following works were in progress at the end of the year:—

(1) Dismantling the old buildings of the Victoria Hospital and erecting Medical officers' quarters and other buildings and improvement to the site at Darjeeling.

(2) Improvements to the worksheds in Wards Nos. 3 and 4 in the Central Jail at Midnapore.

Earthquake damages.

367. An earthquake shock of severe intensity was felt on the 15th January 1934. Considerable damage was done to Government buildings, especially at Darjeeling, where the following buildings collapsed or were damaged beyond repair and are to be re-erected:—

(1) Government House main building, including kitchen wing.

(2) Campbell Cottage (Superintendent of Police's residence).

(3) Government High School main building.

(4) Government High School Headmaster's quarters.

(5) Main Prisoners' Barrack, Warders' quarters and the major portion of the perimeter wall of the Darjeeling Jail.

Extensive damage was done to other Government buildings in Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri and damage was also done to (1) the Collector's residence at Berhampore, (2) the Nawab Bahadur's Institution at Murshidabad, (3) the Munsif's residence at Jangipur, (4) Police Buildings at Nabagram, and (5) the Boarding house and Headmaster's quarters attached to the Guru Training School at Nalhati. Steps were taken to repair them.

[Report by the Consulting Architect to the Government of Bengal on the Architectural work of the Province for the year 1933-34.]

Establishment.

368. Mr. W. I. Keir, Consulting Architect, was granted 6 months' leave from 18th April, 1933 and was subsequently granted all the further leave due to him on his services being dispensed with by Government, the post of Consulting Architect being held in abeyance, as a measure of retrenchment.

The services of two draftsmen—one senior and one junior draftsman—were also dispensed with by Government during the year for the same reason. (The post of orderly peon to Consulting Architect was also abolished).

Medical.

369. (1) *Shelter for Male Out-patients in the compound of Chuni Lal Seal's Dispensary—Medical College, Calcutta.*—The building was commenced in February 1933 and was not completed by the end of the year. The revised estimate for the same amounted to Rs. 6,676.

(2) *Casualty, Out-patients' and Children's Ward, etc., Medical College, Calcutta.*—Preliminary 1/16th" sketch plans of the ground, first and second floors, showing alternative suggestions, were prepared, together with rough costs, and forwarded for the consideration of the Surgeon-General and the Principal, Medical College, Calcutta.

(3) *Type plans for mufassal hospitals.*—At the request of the Surgeon-General, Bengal, various alternative type plans were prepared for mufassal hospitals with statements of rough cost and submitted to the Surgeon-General for approval.

(4) *Sambhu Nath Pandit Hospital extension, Bhowanipur, Calcutta.*—Various sketch plans were prepared for an extension to the Out-patients' Department and submitted to the Surgeon Superintendent, Sambhu Nath Pandit Hospital.

(5) *Type plan for Government Vaccine Institute.*—At the request of the Veterinary Adviser to Government of Bengal type plans for Goat Vaccine Institutes were prepared and forwarded to him together with rough costs.

(6) *Proposed improvement to the Hospital at Comilla.*—1/8th" sketch plans were prepared for the following buildings:—

Ground and first floor plans, Indoor Hospital.
Female Ward.
Outdoor Hospital.
Six cottages.
Administration block.
Pauper Ward.
Infectious Ward.
Kitchen.
Mortuary.
Assistant Surgeon's, Sub-Assistant Surgeon's and Lady Doctor's quarters.
Midwife's, Dresser's and Compounder's quarters.
Out houses and Latrines.

These together with a large site plan showing layout of the above buildings were forwarded to Government.

370. (1) *Sakhawat Memorial Girls School, Calcutta.*—Revised sketch plans and sections were prepared and forwarded to Director of Public Instruction, Bengal, together with a rough estimate amounting to Rs. 3,25,245. Education.

(2) *Moslem Institute, Madrassa College, Calcutta.*—1/8th″ scale plans, elevations and sections for the quarters for clerks and menials were prepared and forwarded. A detailed estimate prepared by Executive Engineer amounted to Rs. 8,131.

371. *Accommodation for the Bengal Armed Police in plot B on the site of the Old Army Clothing Factory site, Alipore.*—Further revised plans for Police buildings were prepared and submitted for preparation of a rough estimate. Residences, etc.

372. (1) *Additions and alterations to Police Court at No. 2, Bankshall Street, Calcutta.*—1/8th″, scale working drawings and ½″ details were supplied to the Executive Engineer for submission to Government. The Executive Engineer's detailed estimate amounted to Rs. 58,125. Courts and offices, etc.

(2) *Conversion of a portion of the Rotunda Room into a Book-stall on the ground floor of Writers' Buildings.*—Working drawings and detailed estimate amounting to Rs. 1,622 were prepared and submitted to Government.

(3) *Courts for Additional Judge and two Munsiffs at Asansol.*—The construction of this building which was commenced in December 1929 was completed in March 1933. The actual cost of the building was Rs. 1,39,787.

373. *Teesta Bridge, Kalimpong.*—A design for the treatment of approaches from the Kalimpong and the Teesta sides was prepared and forwarded to the Superintending Engineer, Northern Circle. The foregoing list of projects are those for which drawings have been prepared during the year, and those under construction have been regularly inspected where possible. A considerable amount of time has also been expended in scrutinising plans and giving advice in connection with proposed building work for which no drawings have actually been prepared. The amount of actual constructional work designed and considered in the office was less than in normal years, but the staff was fully employed in preparing type designs and other miscellaneous works. Government were compelled, owing to the need for stringent economy, to reduce the office staff. Miscellaneous.

Railways.

Administration.

374. The following Light Railways are under the control of this Government in so far as provision for their construction and management was made by provincial legislation:—

	Gauge. Feet.	Inch.	Length of miles.
(1) Darjeeling Himalayan Railway ..	2	0	51·07
(2) Bengal Provincial Railway (Tarkeswar-Tribeni)	2	6	33·27
(3) Howrah Amta Light Railway ..	2	0	43·87
(4) Howrah Sheakhala Light Railway ..	2	0	19·75
(5) Baraset-Basirhat Light Railway ..	2	6	52·24
Total ..			200·20

All other railways in this province are under the direct control of the Government of India (Railway Board).

Surveys and construction.

375. During the year no surveys were sanctioned by the Government of India, Railway Department (Railway Board), and no new construction was made. The Jessore-Jhenidah Railway (36;75 miles) which had gone into liquidation, was reopened for goods traffic during the year.

Lines opened.

376. A new Branch line on the Bengal-Dooars Railway from Domohani to Barnes Ghat was opened to passenger traffic during the year under report. The Calcutta Chord Railway line, except for the Willingdon Bridge at Bally, was not opened to passenger traffic during the year under review.

Mileage.

The total mileage of railways open to traffic on 31st March 1934 was the same as on 31st March 1933, viz., 3,499·30 miles.

Irrigation Department.

377. In accordance with the recommendation of the Irrigation Department Committee, 1930, that the control of navigable waterways in Bengal should be transferred from Government to a separate body, a Bill for the formation of a Waterways Trust in Bengal was introduced in the Bengal Legislative Council and passed as Bengal Act XII of 1934.

General.

378. The total capital expenditure of the department during the year 1933-34 was Rs. 9,12,019 after deducting receipts and recoveries on capital account amounting to Rs. 9,476, as against Rs. 13,24,967 in the previous year. Of this amount, Rs. 9,09,011 was spent on the Damodar Canal Project and the remainder on the Bakreswar Canal, the Grand Trunk Canal and the Madaripur Bil Route projects.

New project.

379. The only important new project under construction during the year was the Damodar Irrigation Canal in the districts of Burdwan and Hooghly. The construction was started in 1926-27 and is now nearing completion. The canal was formally opened on the 2nd September 1933 by His Excellency the Right Hon'ble Sir John Anderson, P.C., G.C.B., G.C.I.E., Governor of Bengal. The head weir at Rondia where the opening ceremony took place has been named after His Excellency the "Anderson Weir." The Canal has been designed to irrigate about 200,000 acres of land in the districts of Burdwan and Hooghly. The works already completed command an area of 41,561 acres, but, owing to the well-distributed rainfall during the kharif season and to the failure of the local cultivators to appreciate the benefits of irrigation by silt-laden canal water, an area of 5,580 acres only came under operation during the year. The Bakreswar Irrigation Scheme in the district of Bankura, which was taken up in 1927, was completed during the year. The total length of the Main Canal and distributaries under operation was 21 miles 4,070 feet and the total area under irrigation was 7,361 acres as against an estimated area of 10,000 acres. The area under lease was irrigated satisfactorily and the outturn of crops was the maximum known for many years past in that area. The newly constructed locks and sluices on the Madaripur Bil Route and the Lower Kumar river were in operation during the year. Although the conditions in the river have changed since the locks and sluices were projected, indications are apparent that they can prove useful in reducing siltation in the river. The Grand Trunk Canal has been held in abeyance. A small capital expenditure was incurred as in previous years on the upkeep of buildings on the acquired land and on petty establishment and tools and plant.

Revenue expenditure.

380. The expenditure on revenue account during the year amounted to Rs. 27,85,699, of which Rs. 2,79,747 was spent on irrigation works proper, the principal items being the Midnapore, the Bakreswar and the Damodar and the Eden Canals. The Eden Canal having been amalgamated with the Damodar Canal system the account of the former was incorporated in that of the latter during the year under review. The expenditure on the Midnapore Canal was Rs. 1,50,361, which included Rs. 36,341 for maintenance and repairs and Rs. 1,12,763 for overhead charges. The expenditure on the Bakreswar Canal was Rs. 13,680, while that on the Damodar Canal including the Eden Canal, totalled Rs. 1,05,074. The rest of the expenditure was on navigation, embankment and drainage works. The expenditure on navigation was mainly for (1) upkeep of five big suction dredgers, (2) maintenance of the Hijili Tidal Canal, (3) maintenance of the steamer and boat routes from Calcutta to Eastern Bengal and Assam,

including the reconstruction of the bridges over the Calcutta Canals and Tolly's Nala to the costs of which the Calcutta Improvement Trust and the Calcutta Corporation contributed in certain cases, and (4) conservancy of some of the principal navigable rivers of the province such as the Ganges, the Dhalleswari and the Buriganga. The expenditure on the Calcutta and Eastern Canals was Rs. 4,83,742 as compared with Rs. 5,05,868 in 1932-33. The reconstruction work was carried out to the Alipore, Chitpore and Ultadanga (now called Ghuznavi) bridges. The expenditure on the Hijili Tidal Canal, the Sundarbans Steamer Route and the Madaripur Bil Route was Rs. 74,696, Rs. 82,905 and Rs. 2,79,612, respectively, as compared with Rs. 39,469, Rs. 1,02,176 and Rs. 2,41,919 in 1932-33, while the cost of upkeep of the dredgers amounted to Rs. 2,33,117 against Rs. 2,55,000 in the previous year. The increased expenditure on the Hijili Tidal Canal was mainly due to silt clearance of Range II and thorough repairs to the Kalinagore and Terapakhia lock gates, while that on the Madaripore Bil Route was due to heavy dredging in the Lower Kumar river. Gross receipts from the Calcutta and Eastern Canals, Hijili Tidal Canal, Sundarbans Steamer Route and Madaripore Bil Route amounted to Rs. 3,58,618, Rs. 45,515, Rs. 60,062 and Rs. 1,68,199, respectively, as against Rs. 3,90,886, Rs. 61,016, Rs. 57,651 and Rs. 1,95,715 in the previous year. In the case of the Calcutta and Eastern Canal the fall was mainly due to heavy slump in trade, while in the case of the Hijili Tidal Canal it was due to general economic depression, inundation of the Contai subdivision by exceptionally heavy rainfall, which affected inland trade, and closure of Range II of the canal for the purpose of silt clearance. Diversion of steamer traffic through the Bil Route on account of siltation in the Lower Kumar river and heavy depression in trade are the main causes for the drop in revenue receipts from the Madaripore Bil Route.

Revenue receipts.

381. The total revenue receipts and working expenses of the department during the year were Rs. 12,99,423 and Rs. 27,85,699, respectively, as against Rs. 10,57,651 and Rs. 24,40,231 in the previous year. Though the total receipts apparently increased by Rs. 2,41,772 the actual revenue from different canals further declined for reasons stated above. The apparent increase in receipts was due to transfer of certain spare parts of five suction dredgers to stock (suspense) for which credit of Rs. 2,98,962 was taken in the revenue account of the dredgers. The value of the spare parts was however debited to suspense which as well as increased expenditure on maintenance of certain works as stated above account for the increase in working expenses by Rs. 3,45,468.

Incidentally it may be mentioned that one of the reasons for high working expenses on works in this department is the high

percentage of establishment charges. This high percentage of establishment charges on works appears to be attributable to the present system of *pro rata* distribution obtaining in this department. In accordance with the recommendation of the Sub-Committee of the Bengal Legislative Committee on Public Accounts, Government are now considering the revision of the present system of *pro rata* distribution of establishment charges. As a retrenchment measure Government also decided to reduce the cadre of the Indian Service of Engineer officers from the sanctioned strength of 30 to 19 and 3 members of the service were made to retire compulsorily during the year under review. A substantial reduction was also made in the temporary establishment entertained by this department.

This department some years ago prepared and administratively approved a good number of major schemes which it has not been possible to execute for want of funds. As owing to financial stringency, it will not be possible to undertake these schemes for some years to come the present policy of Government has been, as stated in previous reports, to give attention mainly to small local schemes which may result in maximum benefit at a minimum cost, such as schemes for making small cuts from live rivers in order to introduce a supply of water into channels of rivers which have deteriorated. A scheme for a cut from the Mathabhanga to the Nabaganga river (now called the Ghuznavi Cut) was carried out by the District Board of Nadia with a financial assistance of Rs. 8,000 from Government. The cut is proving efficient and successful. Two other schemes of the same kind, viz., Hat Boalia Cut and Joynagor Cut, are now under examination.

With a view to improve the health and sanitation of certain malaria-stricken localities in Western Bengal this department in co-ordination with the Public Health Department have introduced free flushing operations. During the year under review an area of 14 square miles outside the commanded area of the Eden Canal was flushed. Certain malarious areas comprising 4,900 acres in the Narayangarh and Pingla thanas of the Midnapore district were also thoroughly flushed with the water of the Midnapore Canal. As an anti-malaria measure these flushing operations have been very beneficial, as indicated by the following spleen indices in the locality:—

Area.	Highest spleen index in previous year.	Highest spleen index in 1933.
Narayangarh ..	.. 85 per cent (1932)	59 per cent.
Pingla ..	.. 80 ,, (1931)	57 ,,

This department maintained about 1,293 miles of embankment during the year under review. The policy of gradually abandoning those protective embankments which by experience have been

found to be injurious to the country by obstructing free discharge of silt-laden flood water was continued and 1,008 feet of embankment was abandoned during the year. The total amount spent on maintenance of embankment of drainage works such as Magrahat Drainage works, Rajapur Drainage works, Howrah Drainage works, Dancooni Drainage works, etc., was Rs. 11,42,862 as against Rs. 7,85,822 in the previous year. The increased expenditure was due to the value of spare parts of dredgers being debited to stock (suspense) as also to heavy repairs of damages caused to certain embankments by floods in the Contai subdivision of the Midnapore district.

The department has also to deal with protection of towns from river erosion. During the year under review no protective works were undertaken but the revetment constructed for the protection of Serajganj was efficiently maintained and periodical observations of the erosion at Noakhali and Chandpur were made.

The department undertakes surveys and investigations with a view to examining the feasibility of working out schemes for irrigation and drainage purposes, and also conducts discharge observations and collects hydraulic data of all important rivers. During the year under review several surveys were continued from the previous year and several new surveys were undertaken. The most important of these were (1) detailed survey of the Subhankar's Danra project, (2) survey of the Ajoy Canal Scheme, (3) detailed survey of the Darkeswar Reservoir project, (4) survey of the Messanjore Reservoir Scheme, (5) discharge observations of important streams and rivers in the Bankura and Birbhum districts, and (6) survey of the old Brahmaputra river from its junction with the new channel on the north of Mohanganj to Dewanganj and of the Bahadurabad offtake.

The rainfall during the flood season was greatly in excess of the normal. The abnormal rainfall coupled with upland freshets and high sea tides resulted in high flood in some of the rivers such as Cossye, Rupnarain and Kaliaghye. In the Contai subdivision of the Midnapore district considerable flooding occurred and large areas in the lower parts of the district were damaged. In order to relieve flood congestion cuts had to be allowed in Schedule D and Takavi Embankments.

No material damage was caused to any works of this department by the big earthquake on the 15th January 1934. The superficial cracks that appeared in some of the buildings of this department were speedily attended to.

The general economic conditions of the country were unfavourable on account of the trade depression and the fall of prices in paddy and other commodities which entailed a decrease in receipt from irrigation and navigation works.

CHAPTER X.

Public Health and Medical Relief.

Public Health.

[Report on the Director of Public Health, Bengal, for the year 1933.]

General health conditions.

382. The provincial birth rate for 1933 as compared with that of the previous year (calculated according to the census of 1931) showed an increase of 10·9 per cent. The death rate also increased by 17 per cent. Compared with the quinquennial average, both the birth and death rates in 1933 showed increase of 10·0 and 9·6 per cent. respectively. The rate of natural increase was 5·5 compared with 6·1 per mille in 1932. Compared with the other provinces in India, Bengal recorded the lowest birth rate in 1933. On the other hand, her death rate was higher than that of all other provinces excepting Bombay, Punjab and Central Provinces. As in the previous year, the two districts, Jessore and Calcutta, showed an excess of deaths over births. The infant mortality rate in 1933 was 200·1 per mille of births and was thus higher than that of 1932 which was 178·9 per mille. The steady rise in the infant mortality in Bengal is a very noticeable feature. The quinquennial average of infant mortality per mille of births for 1933 was 179·5, the same as for 1932. The general death rates from cholera, smallpox, fevers, dysentery and diarrhœa, respiratory diseases, injury and other causes in 1933 as compared with those for 1932 are shown below:—

Diseases.	1932.	1933.
Cholera	0·7	0·6
Small-pox	0·2	0·3
Fevers	13·8	16·3
Dysentery and diarrhœa ..	0·8	0·9
Respiratory diseases	1·2	1·6
Injury	0·4	0·4
Other diseases	3·3	3·8

Registration and verification of vital statistics.

383. During the year 1933, 652 were prosecuted in Bengal for failure to report births and deaths, of which 505 ended in conviction. In rural areas, the system of registration of vital

events is still unsatisfactory, but two experiments in this respect were carried out during the year in the districts of Birbhum and Bankura with satisfactory results.

Epidemic disease—
(*a*) Cholera.

384. Cholera claimed 29,242 deaths in 1933 against 33,910 in 1932, thus showing a decrease of 4,668 deaths or 14·3 per cent. in the death rate. It caused 2·4 per cent. of the total provincial mortality in 1933 against 3·3 per cent. in 1932. Compared with 1932, death rate from cholera was higher in March, April and May and lower in the remaining months except in June in which the rates were the same. Compared with the previous decennium, the death rate was lower in all the months. The districts of Tippera, Dacca and Bakarganj suffered most from cholera, while among the towns Kalna was the worst sufferer. The total number of inoculations performed during the year was 1,036,643 against 952,105 in 1932. About 146,940 dobas and 30,207 tanks were disinfected in addition to a large number of river ghats, houses and latrines. Inoculation of pilgrims and educative propaganda work were carried out as energetically as in the previous year.

(*b*) Small-pox.

385. Smallpox was responsible for 15,426 deaths in Bengal in 1933. The death rate and the mean of the previous five years were ·3 and ·4 per mille, respectively. Smallpox accounted for 1·3 per cent. of the total provincial mortality in 1933 against 0·77 per cent. in 1932. From December 1932 smallpox was on the increase reaching its height in April 1933 and declining steadily from May, the mortality came to its lowest in November. The highest mortality rate from this cause, 5·8 per 100,000, occurred in April and the lowest 0·4 per 100,000 in November. Compared with that for the year 1932, the death rate was higher during 1933 in the months from January to October, same in December and lower in November. Compared with the previous decade, the death rate from smallpox in 1933 was lower in every month except in February. In Calcutta the death rate from smallpox was higher than that of the previous year. Among the districts, Hooghly showed the highest death rate. The respective death rates in towns and rural areas were 1·6 and ·2 per mille against ·34 and ·14 in 1932, showing an increase of 433·3 and 42·8 per cent. in towns and in the rural areas, respectively. This abnormal increase in the urban mortality from smallpox is mainly due to the epidemic outbreak of the disease in Calcutta which alone was responsible for 76·0 per cent. of the total deaths from smallpox in all the towns in Bengal. 5·2 per cent. of the total smallpox deaths occurred among infants below one year and 5·9 per cent. among children between one and ten years of age.

386. Deaths from fever numbered 812,393 in 1933 against 691,513 in 1932. Of the total deaths from all causes fevers claimed 67·8 per cent. against 67·6 per cent. in the previous year. There was a general increase of death rates from all kinds of fevers in 1933. **Fevers.**

387. Malaria was responsible for 413,922 deaths with a death rate of 8·3 per mille in 1933 against 327,386 deaths with 6·6 death rate per mille in 1932. The number of deaths thus increased by 86,536, showing a rise of 25·7 per cent. It accounted for 50·9 per cent. of the total fever mortality and 34·5 per cent. of the total provincial mortality. Compared with the previous year, all the districts except two showed increased death rates from malaria while Calcutta recorded the same rate. The incidence was highest in Rajshahi although the death rates show the highest mortality in Nadia. The towns registered in 1933, 3,232 deaths and a death rate of ·9 per mille from malaria and the rural areas 410,690 deaths with a death rate of 8·8 per mille. Compared with the previous year, the death rate increased in towns by 12·5 and in the rural areas by 25·7 per cent. Fifty towns out of 118 returned rates above the provincial urban average for malaria (·9), the most noticeable rates being those of Kotchandpur (19·3) in Jessore, Dhulian (14·3) in Murshidabad and Birnagar (11·5) in Nadia district. In 1933, 13,329·4 lb. of quinine was consumed against 9,031·3 lb. in 1932. Except Burdwan, Hooghly and 24-Parganas all other districts in Bengal showed increased quinine consumption. The fever indices fell, however, only in the districts of Calcutta and 24-Parganas in the year under report. The average quinine consumption per head of population was higest in Chittagong as in the previous year. Ludlowii survey in several spots in and on the outskirts of Calcutta and the experimental anti-malaria scheme at Sailihat in the Duars were continued during 1933. An experimental anti-malaria scheme with quinine and plasmochin was also carried out in certain selected areas in the Burdwan district. **Malaria.**

388. The provincial death rate from kala-azar was ·27 per mille as against ·21 per mille in the previous year. Compared with 1932, the death rate in all Bengal towns increased by 11·1 per cent., but in Calcutta it decreased by 5 per cent. The highest mortality from kala-azar (2·1 per mille) was again registered in the Kalna town (Burdwan district). Out of 118 towns, 45 did not record any death from kala-azar. Kala-azar accounted for 1·6 per cent. of fever deaths and 1·1 per cent. of the total provincial mortality against 1·5 and 1·04 per cent., respectively, in 1932. New cases numbering 110,574 were admitted for treatment at kala-azar centres and other medical institutions in **Kala-azar.**

the province, against 105,840 in the previous year and 101,151 in 1931. The number of such admissions increased in 20 districts and decreased in 7. The increase, however, in the districts of Rajshahi, Jessore, Dinajpur, Rangpur and Darjeeling was phenomenal, while there was no noticeable decrease in any of the districts. On the whole, kala-azar seems to have definitely taken an upward turn from its gradual course of decline during the last few years.

Enteric fever, measles, relapsing and other fevers.

389. Compared with the previous year, the death rate for enteric fever in 1933 showed an increase of 20 per cent. and that for measles also showed an increase of 80 per cent. Of the total fever deaths and the total provincial mortality 1·3 and ·9 per cent., respectively, were due to enteric fever and ·5 and ·4 per cent., respectively, were due to measles. The deaths reported from relapsing fever were 5,173 against 4,357 in 1932. No death from this cause was reported to have occurred in Calcutta. Other fevers accounted for 364,327 deaths with a death rate of 7·3 per mille as against 6·7 per mille in 1932.

Plague.

390. In Bengal only one death from plague occurred in Calcutta in December 1933.

Dysentery and diarrhœa.

391. Dysentery claimed 25,980 and diarrhœa 20,717 deaths making a total of 46,697 and giving a death rate of 0·9 per mille in 1933 against 39·562 deaths and a death rate of 0·8 per mille in 1932. These two diseases were responsible for 3·9 per cent. of the total provincial mortality. The death rate from diarrhœa and dysentery increased by 12·5 per cent. against the previous year's rate as well as the last quinquennium average. The district of Howrah again headed the list while Malda was again at the bottom, the highest increase occurring in the Noakhali district as in the previous year. The provincial urban death rate from dysentery and diarrhœa was the same as in 1932, viz., 1·89. In Calcutta it decreased by 6·8 per cent., while in the rural areas it increased by 21·1 per cent. The higest death rate from these causes combined was returned from Kirpai, Ramjibanpur, Kharar and Chandrakona all in the Midnapur district.

Respiratory diseases.

392. Respiratory diseases were responsible for 82,173 deaths in 1933, showing an increase of 19,924 deaths or 33·3 per cent. over the previous year. The death rates from pneumonia, phthisis, influenza and other respiratory diseases all rose respectively from ·56, ·23, ·07 and ·38 in 1932 to ·7, ·30, ·10 and ·50 in 1933. 6·86 per cent. of the total provincial mortality was due to respiratory diseases. The deaths reported from all respiratory diseases, have been on steady increase. During 1933, influenza accounted for 5,223 deaths, pneumonia for 37,337, phthisis for 14,802 and other respiratory diseases for 24,811.

Injuries.

393. The total number of deaths from injuries was 21,166 in 1933 against 20,075 in 1932, showing an increase of 1,091. Deaths from wounds and accidents increased by 545, from snake-bite and attacks of wild animals by 514 and from rabies by 50. The number of deaths under suicide, however, decreased by 18 only. Injuries accounted for 1·7 per cent. of the total deaths in the province, and 1,586 of the deaths occurred in towns, of which 691 happened in Calcutta alone. The rural areas returned 19,580 deaths in 1933. The number of deaths reported from all other causes was 190,787, of which 23,663 occurred in towns and 167,124 in the rural areas of the province.

General sanitation in the ports : (a) Calcutta.

394. The city and the port of Calcutta being free from plague infection there was no routine disinfection of the clothing and bedding of the Asiatic and African crew and of third class deck passengers of ships leaving for any port beyond British India. The admission rate of European seamen to hospitals for all causes calculated on arrivals was 12·80 per mille. There were five deaths or a death-rate of ·23 reported in hospitals. Among the Asiatic seamen, the police reported 140 deaths, of which 45 were due from fever, 4 from diarrhœa, 1 from cholera, 2 from bronchitis, 7 from heart failure, 9 from dysentery, 4 from leprosy, 1 from tetanus, 2 from suicides, 63 from accidents and 2 from other causes. During 1933, five ships with infectious diseases on board arrived in the port of Calcutta and they were disinfected by the Calcutta Port Health Department. Eighteen sea-going vessels, 24 inland steamers 10 flats and launches and 22 lighters, *bhars* and *dinghis* were disinfected and 37 sea-going vessels were fumigated with Clayton apparatus. Of the 686 rats caught in this port and examined at the Bengal Public Health Laboratory none was found to have plague infection. 664 deck passengers of 51 ships and about 125 persons of the floating population of the port were vaccinated.

(b) Chittagong.

395. During the year 1933 only one case of cholera and two cases of chicken-pox broke out in the vessels lying in the port of Chittagong. The patients were removed to the hospital. Sixty-four Asiatic seamen were treated in the Chittagong General Hospital, of whom one suffered from cholera, 3 from pneumonia, 4 from influenza, 2 from chicken-pox, 2 from beri-beri, 19 from fever, and the rest from other causes. One hundred and ninety-two members of crews were vaccinated and eight ships were partially disinfected and fumigated.

Public Health Laboratories : Bengal Public Health Laboratory.

396. In 1933, 2,611 chemical, 5,470 bacteriological and 6,465 food sample examinations were made at the Bengal Public Health Laboratory. No other district public health laboratory except the four mentioned in the previous years' reports has since been

established in Bengal. Although the Bengal Food Adulteration Act has been extended to all the municipalities and districts, samples of food articles were received for analysis from only 14 district boards and 50 municipalities. The number of samples sent by each of them was also far less than the recognised standard. About 77 per cent. of milk, 86 per cent. of *dahi*, 33 per cent. of mustard oil and 23 per cent. of *ghee* samples from the district boards and 71 per cent. of milk, 77 per cent. of *dahi*, 83 per cent. of butter, 28 per cent. of mustard oil and 28 per cent. of *ghee* samples from the municipalities were found to be adulterated. Until, therefore, the local bodies take more energetic action in respect of the collection of food samples under the law, the present widespread adulteration of food articles can not be effectively controlled.

Dacca Branch Public Health Laboratory.

397. Three hundred and sixty-four samples of water were examined chemically and 1,178 bacteriologically in 1933. Three hundred and forty-three samples of effluents from the Dacca sewage works and 5,087 samples of foodstuffs were also examined. Three thousand five hundred and twenty-three food samples were received from district boards and 1,282 from municipalities during the year, the percentage of adulteration detected being 50 and 45, respectively. Milk and milk products were very widely adulterated.

Bengal Excise Laboratory.

398. Seven thousand nine hundred and twenty-two samples received from the Excise and the Police Departments were examined at the Excise Laboratory in 1933 against 7,255 in the previous year. Of these 6,315 were of spirituous medical preparations, 38 of toilet preparations, 5 of country spirit, *pachwai*, *tari* and *bakhar*, 11 of brandy, beer, rum, gin and whisky (other than those received from distilleries), 24 of water for ascertaining its suitability for reduction of spirit, 128 of instruments, 464 distillery samples, 918 court-case samples and 19 were of miscellaneous nature.

Bengal Vaccine Laboratory.

399. The quantity of anti-cholera vaccine manufactured at the Bengal Vaccine Laboratory in 1933 was 1,380,800 cubic centimetres, of which 1,181,950 cubic centimetres were issued free and 50,580 cubic centimetres on payment.

School hygiene.

400. One hundred and eighty-three schools were visited in 1933 by 41 medical officers inspecting 21,140 boys and 550 girls. The plans of 12 educational institutions were also examined during the year.

401. Ninety-nine *dai* training classes were conducted in 1933 in which 1,170 pupil *dais* were trained. A total of 749 certificates and 984 maternity outfits were awarded to the trained *dais*. *Dai* training.

402. During 1933, no case of infectious disease was reported from any fair in the Burdwan, Rajshahi and Chittagong divisions. A few cases of cholera occurred at the Nangalbund *mela* in the Dacca district. Ganga Sagar *mela* in the 24-Parganas district was free from infectious diseases except two imported cases of smallpox. The Ganga Sagar *mela* was held in the month of January and the Nangalbund *mela* in April attended by about 40,000 and a lakh of pilgrims respectively. Fairs and festivals.

403. In 1933, plans of 4 new septic tank latrines and 2 activated sludge plants were approved. The number of inspections were 339. One thousand five hundred and fifty samples of effluent were chemically and bacteriologically examined at the Bengal Public Health Laboratory. The usual supply of health posters, leaflets and literature was made for display among mill hands and instructions for the removal of the nuisances noticed were issued. Septic tank latrines.

404. The cinematographic representation has been fully established to be the most effective method of popular education. The ten propaganda units under the Bengal Public Health Department carried on their continuous tour throughout the year under instructions of the district officers and held as many as 1,315 lectures with demonstrations for about 658 localities. The approximate total attendance would amount to 2,057,700 persons against 18 lakhs in 1,300 shows during 1932. The number of baby shows and health exhibitions held during 1933 was slightly higher than that of the previous year. The Publicity Branch of the Bengal Public Health Department rendered direct assistance to about 60 such exhibitions. The demand for coloured posters and leaflets continued undiminished. A few new charts and leaflets on vitamin and mineral contents of foodstuffs were added to the old list. A new film entitled "The End of the Fute" representing the benefits of co-operation and organisation in village life was also produced during the year. Educational propaganda.

405. Twenty-one health officers and 99 sanitary inspectors were employed in the municipalities excluding Calcutta, the sanctioned scale being 22 health officers and 100 sanitary inspectors. All the districts were also provided with fully qualified health officers. The Bengal rural public health organisation scheme, as Sanitary administration in municipal and rural areas.

described in previous reports, is working satisfactorily in 25 districts. All the 575 health circles in the various districts except Darjeeling worked, as usual, with trained sanitary inspectors and a few assistant health officers.

Vaccination.

406. During the yaer 1933-34, 2,532,230 primary vaccinations and 4,107,104 revaccinations with a total of 6,639,334 operations were performed on 6,637,097 persons against 2,522,872 primary vaccinations and 4,162,351 revaccinations or an aggregate of 6,685,223 operations on 6,670,134 persons during the previous year. Although there has been a slight increase in the number of primary vaccinations and of children successfully vaccinated under one year, and one year and under six years, but the total number of vaccinations showed a decrease by 45,889 cases. 3,03,146 children under one year and 1,475,184 between one year and six years of age were successfully vaccinated. The total number of vaccinations performed was 5,878,807 in the rural areas, 588,460 in the municipalities and 170,112 in the tea gardens, factories, steamers, railways and jails against 5,574,367, 908,267 and 202,598, respectively, in the previous year. It thus appears that the decrease in the number of total vaccinations noted above was principally contributed by the municipalities and other agencies. In the rural areas, thirteen districts, viz., Bankura, Midnapore, Hooghly, Rajshahi, Dinajpur, Darjeeling, Bogra, Pabna, Malda, Faridpur, Chittagong, Tippera and the Chittagong Hill Tracts, showed increase in the number of vaccinations while seven districts showed decrease. It has been noticed that smallpox prevailed in epidemic form in Burdwan, Hooghly, Howrah, Jessore, Rangpur and Mymensingh districts. Calcutta with 1,898 deaths stood first in the role of smallpox deaths. The total cost of vaccination in 1933-34 was Rs. 4,39,021-1-3 against Rs. 4,57,633-13-8 during the previous year. Including the recurring vaccination grant of Rs. 50,000, a sum of Rs. 1,52,342-7-3 was paid from the provincial revenues, Rs. 1,46,189-3 from the district funds and Rs. 1,40,489-7 from the municipal funds. The total output of vaccine lymph at the Bengal Vaccine Institute was 4,190,558 grains against 6,362,104 grains of the previous year. The total issue of lymph to all bodies in Bengal has been 3,612,829 grains. During this year lymph to the value of Rs. 11,228-8 was sold as against Rs. 11,412 of the previous year. The total expenditure including overhead charges for supervision, etc., was Rs. 43,499-1-3 against Rs. 48,230-13-10 of the preceding year.

Medical Relief.

[Report on the working of Hospitals and Dispensaries in Bengal during the year 1933.]

CALCUTTA HOSPITALS AND DISPENSARIES.

Number of institutions.

407. During the year under report there were 44 hospitals and dispensaries in Calcutta including the Howrah General Hospital. Of these, 23 had accommodation for indoor patients while 21 provided treatment for outdoor patients only. Six of the hospitals and dispensaries were maintained exclusively for the treatment of females. It is noteworthy that the number of hospitals and dispensaries in Calcutta has gone up from 24 in 1923 to 44 in 1933.

Beds.

408. The total number of beds in the 23 indoor hospitals increased from 3,542 in the previous year to 3665, the increase being mainly due to the addition of 100 beds provided by the newly built hospital attached to the Calcutta Medical Institute. Twenty beds were added to the Carmichael Medical College Hospital and three to the Lady Dufferin Hospital.

Patients treated.

409. The total number of patients increased from 853,291 in 1932 to 917,962, the number of in-patients rising from 57,177 to 64,671 and of out-patients from 803,363 to 860,540. While the increase in the number of out-patients may have been partly due to the economic depression, the increase in the number of in-patients was mainly due to an increasing appreciation of the Western method of treatment and the growing popularity of the Calcutta hospitals. The death rate among in-patients was 10·49. As usual the Medical College group of Hospitals treated the largest number of indoor and outdoor patients.

Nursing.

410. The nursing staff of the Medical College Hospitals continued to be inadequate for meeting their normal demands. The nursing staff, however, carried out its duties creditably, and Miss Falkiner, the Lady Superintendent, was awarded a First Class Kaiser-i-Hind medal in recognition of her work. The re-opening of recruitment by the Calcutta Hospital Nurses institution helped to relieve the heavy strain upon the nursing staff.

Diseases.

411. There was a noticeable decrease in the total number of patients treated for cholera, malaria and beri-beri, but there was an increase in the number of patients treated for dysentery, kala-azar, influenza, smallpox, tuberculosis, diseases of the eye and venereal diseases. Out of 1,661 smallpox cases, 1,491 were treated in the indoor wards and there were 559 deaths. The number of tubercular cases treated was 11,888, 1,415 being in the indoor

wards with 506 deaths amongst them. Of the total number of 84,381 eye cases, 35,008 were treated in the Eye Infirmary alone. Out of 37,065 venereal patients, 25,864 were males and 11,201 females, as against 22,646 males and 11,544 females in 1932.

Surgical operations.

412. The number of surgical operations was 66,595 as against 59,181 in 1932. The number of fatal cases was 737 only, and 87 per cent. of the cases ended in a total cure. Of the selected operations, abdominal sections other than obstetrical (1,855) and extraction of lens cases (1,823) constituted the large number.

Finance.

413. The total income of the Calcutta Hospitals was Rs. 36,78,044 as against Rs. 34,27,302 in 1932. Out of this, Government contributions represented Rs. 17,59,171 or 47·83 per cent. of the total income. Subscriptions and donations increased by Rs. 72,609, the increase being due to a large donation from Mrs. M. H. Mauger Fund, which is administered by Government. Miscellaneous receipts increased from Rs. 4,54,520 to Rs. 5,36,182, out of which Rs. 3,50,286 was realised as fees from paying patients and for special services to other patients. The contributions from municipalities, however, fell from Rs. 4,99,605 to Rs. 4,43,317 as a result of their financial difficulties.

Expenditure.

414. The total expenditure of the Calcutta Hosiptals and dispensaries rose from Rs. 30,49,576 in 1932 to Rs. 31,91,133, the increase being noticeable under the head "Miscellaneous." There was decrease in expenditure under "Medicines" resulting from strict economy in their use.

Invested capital.

415. The total invested capital stood at Rs. 25,50,586 at the end of the year against Rs. 22,24,696 at its beginning.

Mufassal Hospitals and Dispensaries.

Number.

416. During the year under report there were 1,224 Allopathic, 65 Homeopathic, 11 Ayurvedic and 4 Unani dispensaries in the mufassal. In addition to these, there were some temporary epidemic dispensaries and intinerant dispensaries in operation. Of the total number of dispensaries, 695 were in the rural and 529 in the urban areas. Twenty-three dispensaries were newly opened during the year, 19 of these being village and union dispensaries.

Beds.

417. The number of indoor beds fell from 5,791 to 5,714, the decrease occurring in private and railway dispensaries.

Patients.

418. The total number of patients, both indoor and outdoor, in all classes of Allopathic dispensaries permanent, temporary or subsidised, as well as in public health centres rose from 9,083,248 in 1932 to 9,807,418. The number of patients treated in Homeopathic, Ayurvedic and Unani dispensaries was 453,362, 29,113, and 12,852, respectively. The figures indicate the increasing popularity of the Western system.

In-patients.

419. The number of patients treated in the indoor wards was 85,608 and the percentage of deaths was 5·7 only. The Sadar Hospitals at Dacca, Chittagong, Burdwan, Darjeeling and Mymensingh treated a large number of indoor patients.

Out-patients.

420. The number of outdoor patients treated in Allopathic dispensaries rose from 9,000,650 in 1932 to 9,721,810, the increase being due mostly to the growing popularity of the Western system and the increased activities of the outlying institutions. The Dacca Mitford Hospital treated the largest number of patients, viz., 62,757, Chittagong coming next with 40,164.

Diseases.

421. The number of patients treated decreased in the case of cholera, beri-beri and venereal diseases but increased in the case of kala-azar, malaria, influenza, smallpox, tuberculosis of lungs and leprosy. The number of kala-azar cases treated rose from 55,763 in 1932 to 170,312; malaria cases from 2,726,313 to 3,362,089; tuberculosis cases from 11,914 to 12,842; and leprosy cases from 4,163 to 4,550.

Surgical operations.

422. The number of surgical cases was 143,665 against 146,352 in 1932. There were 109,811 operations in dispensaries under classes I, III and IV. 106,349 cases ended in complete cure and only 270 in death.

X-Ray diagnosis and electrical treatment.

423. Facilities for X-ray diagnosis and electrical treatment are now available in the hospitals at Midnapore, Burdwan, Berhampur, Dacca, Chittagong, Barisal and Darjeeling.

Nursing.

424. The nursing arrangements in the mufassal hospitals continued to be as unsatisfactory as before. Trained nurses were maintained only in the hospitals at Dacca, Chittagong, Mymensingh, Berhampur, Bankura, Kalimpong, Darjeeling and Hooghly (Imambara). In the remaining places nursing was entrusted to female attendants, servants, compounders and friends and relatives of patients.

Finance receipts.

425. The total receipts of hospitals and dispensaries fell from Rs. 26,87,279 in 1932 to Rs. 26,16,830. Government contributions increased by Rs. 68,652 but there was decrease in Local Fund

and municipal contributions, the most noticeable decrease being under the heads "Subscriptions and donations" and "Miscellaneous" receipts.

Expenditure.

426. The cost of upkeep of the hospitals and dispensaries under classes I, III and IV rose from Rs. 24,15,965 to Rs. 24,85,006, the increase being mostly under heads "Medicines," "Salaries of Medical Officers," "Buildings" and "Miscellaneous."

Invested capital.

427. The invested capital at the close of the year was Rs. 30,15,055.

General remarks.

428. In spite of financial stringency and retrenchments the working of the hospitals and dispensaries during the year under review showed a general improvement. Many improvements are, however, urgently required. Buildings and equipments need overhauling and the conditions of some of the mufassal hospitals is extremely deplorable owing to the inadequacy of the financial resources of the local bodies concerned. Nursing in the hospitals remains generally unsatisfactory. Public conscience has, however, been roused and serious attention is being paid to this question. It is hoped that with the improvement of the general financial situation, public support will be forthcoming in an increasing measure with a view to removing these serious defects.

Eden Sanitarium, Darjeeling.

[Report on the Eden Sanitarium and Hospital for the year 1933.]

General.

429. The Eden Sanitarium and Hospital were founded for the benefit of Europeans who are unable to obtain in their homes the care and attention required when overtaken by sickness or accidents.

Number of patients.

430. During the year 1933, the Sanitarium as well as the Hospital was open from 16th March to 15th November. The number of admissions decreased from 306 in 1932 to 278 in 1933. The number of patients treated in the Hospital decreased from 83 to 73, of whom 62 were cured and 11 were relieved. One patient who remained under treatment at the end of 1932 died during the year under report.

Finance.

431. There was a deficit of no less than Rs. 8,264 on the year's working. The receipts from subscriptions and donations were the same as in the year 1932. No special grant from Government was required beyond the usual grant of Rs. 1,500 for the maintenance of free beds.

Sanitation.

Bengal Sanitary Board.

432. The Board consisted of six official and nine non-official members and held six meetings during the year. The following schemes were considered by the Board:—

	Rs.
(*i*) Bankura waterworks	8,300
(*ii*) Narayangunge waterworks—an elevated reservoir at Nitaiganj	18,250
(*iii*) Narayangunge waterworks complete scheme ..	1,53,439
(*iv*) Burdwan water-supply	1,09,000
A partial project costing for a tube well and a pumping plant was also considered in this connection)	26,974
(*v*) Serampore waterworks	3,46,000
(*vi*) Mymensingh water-supply	1,05,000
(*vii*) South Chandpur waterworks	1,27,000
(*viii*) Faridpur waterworks	17,300

The schemes for water-supply to North Dum-Dum Municipality, Jalpaiguri Municipality and to the hill *bustees* beyond Lebong Cantonment, Darjeeling Municipality, were also considered and approved by the Board.

433. The Board formed a Malaira Sub-Committee with the Surgeon-General as President and this Committee considered the note of the Chief Engineer, Public Health Department, on "The evils of land reclamation by marginal embankments in tidal areas." The Sub-Committee considered the question of cleaning the Khardah Khal in order to allow the tidal water of the Hooghly to flush the Khepla Beel and the Board recommended Government to direct the Chief Engineer, Public Health Department, to prepare a sketch project for the purpose. The Board further considered the inspection reports of the Engineering Branch, Public Health Department, on as many as 22 waterworks in Bengal and suggested remedial measures in suitable cases. The Board also read the monthly analysis reports on the water-supplies of various towns and considered the anti-Ludlowii scheme in Calcutta and the suburbs, the anti-malaria scheme with plasmochin and quinine at Memari in the Burdwan district and the flood flush scheme at Narayangarh in the Midnapore district.

Sanitary Engineering.

434. During the year under report the Engineering Branch of the Public Health Department drew up the following projects:—

(1) Sketch projects—

(*i*) Water-supply at Baranagar, Hooghly, Chandpur Mymensingh, Serampur, Halisahar, Dacca, Navadwip, Khulna, Burdwan, etc., 16 in all.

(*ii*) Drainage and sewerage at Kamarhati, Asansol, Kusthia, Krishnagar, etc., 11 in all.

Total estimate Rs. 25,78,699.

(2) Detailed projects for water-supply at Serampur (complete), Serampur (partial), Narayangunj and Jalpaiguri.—Estimate Rs. 9,15,800.

(3) Miscellaneous—Bhatpara, Kamarhati, Kalimpong Lalbagh, Salboni, etc., 28 in all.—Estimate Rs. 1,95,897.

435. The Engineering Branch further examined the design of a septic tank latrine at Chittagong and the drainage problem of Ulania in the Bakarganj district. This Branch further supervised the execution of the water-supply scheme at Narayangunj, the sewerage scheme in the Dacca University, the gulley pits and water-carriage latrines in the Ahsanulla School of Engineering and surface drainage scheme for the Military hutted camp at Amlapara, Dacca. The execution of the latter work resulted in a vast improvement of the sanitary conditions at the camp. The storm-water tank of the Bhatpara improvement scheme was constructed and brought into operation during the year and several other details of the scheme were completed. Construction of the Jalpaiguri waterworks has commenced with the decentralised storage system and the defects in the rapid gravity filter at the Khulna waterworks were removed after careful examination. The total capital expenditure on waterworks and sewerage works during the year was Rs. 2,81,585 and Rs. 3,32,136, respectively. The Kalimpong waterworks were maintained by the department as in the previous year. The department further scrutinised the annual budget estimates of municipal sewerage works and waterworks and dealt with the monthly reports on analysis of water issued by the Director of the Public Health Laboratory. Inspections of various municipal water and sewerage works were made and advice was given in various difficult matters to local bodies. The progress of sanitary engineering works was much retarded owing to shortage of Government grants. Nevertheless, many municipalities decided to carry out their schemes with loans and the activities of the department were fully maintained.

The Poisons Act.

436. In the Presidency (excluding Calcutta) 3,972 licences were renewed and 1,480 fresh licences issued making a total of 5,452 against 5,320 current in the previous year—an increase of 132 licences. In Calcutta 474 licences were renewed and 72 fresh licences issued making a total of 546 against 544 licences current in the preceding year—an increase of 2 licences. During the year there were 54 prosecutions under the Act, of which 6 were in Calcutta and the remainder in the mufassal. In the latter cases 21 ended in conviction and 7 were still pending, while in Calcutta 5 ended in conviction. Of the 38 cases of cattle poisoning reported during the year against 13 in the previous year, 18 ended in conviction.

CHAPTER XI.

General System of Public Instruction.

Education.

Educational institutions.

437. During the year under review the number of institutions increased by 1,599. Recognised institutions rose in number from 68,773 to 70,338 and unrecognised institutions from 1,554 to 1,588. The number of pupils attending recognised institutions rose from 2,797,387 to 2,899,541 and pupils attending unrecognised institutions increased from 65,704 to 67,171. The total expenditure on public instruction amounted to Rs. 4,23 lakhs against Rs. 4,17 lakhs in the preceding year. The following comparative statement shows the rise and fall of expenditure under the different heads:—

Year.	Provincial Revenue.	District boards.	Municipal funds.	Fees.	Other private sources.
1932-33 ..	135·21	17·09	15·57	182·65	66·98
1933-34 ..	134·88	17·73	16·06	186·72	67·75

University and collegiate education.

438. Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Hassan Suhrawardy, KT., O.B.E., M.D., was Vice-Chancellor of the Calcutta University during the period under review. In December 1933 Dr. Harendra Coomar Mookherjee, M.A., PH.D., offered to the University a further sum of Rs. 1,00,000 in 3½ per cent. Government Promissory Notes for creating an endowment in memory of his mother. The late Rai Bahadur Behari Lal Mittra having bequeathed to the University a sum of Rs. 4,000 per month for the advance of Hindu Female Education, a Committee was appointed by the Senate in April 1933 to frame a scheme for carrying out the wishes of the testator. At Dacca Professor G. H. Langley, M.A., I.E.S., continued to be the Vice-Chancellor of the Dacca University. The varied activities of Students' Unions and Social Service League were conducted with greater zeal than in the previous years. In the Calcutta University the number of university students (excluding undergraduate students in Commerce classes) increased from 1,141 in 1932-33 to 1,354 in 1933-34. The number of women students also rose from 52 to 58. In the Dacca University the number of

students in the Arts and Science classes in the year under review was 769 including 37 women students against 716 in the previous year. The number of Law students in the Dacca University fell considerably. The Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education, Dacca, completed the 14th year of its existence. During the year under review the total number of Arts colleges remained stationary at 51, of which 45 were for men and 6 for women. Of the 45 Arts colleges for men, 10 were maintained by Government and 35 were privately managed, 19 of the latter being subsidised by Government. The student roll strength of these colleges increased from 20,867 in 1932-33 to 23,023 in 1933-34. The total cost of upkeep of these Arts colleges during the year under report amounted to Rs. 36,18,352. A sum of Rs. 2,27,960 was disbursed by the Education Department in 1933-34 in giving grants to private colleges. But on account of financial stringency, the grant of Rs. 1,29,000 which is distributed among non-Government Arts colleges for the improvement of libraries, laboratories and gymnasia on the recommendation of the Syndicate of the Calcutta University was not made available. For the same reason the maintenance grants of private colleges were also reduced by 10 per cent.

Secondary education.

439. During the year under review there was an increase of 6,905 pupils in secondary schools and 49 in the number of schools. The average annual cost of educating a pupil in a secondary school was Rs. 34 and of maintaining a school Rs. 4,851 during the year. In accordance with a resolution of the conference held in Government House in November 1933, Government proposed to make a survey of the secondary (especially high English) schools in Bengal in order to ascertain to what extent the existing high schools are necessary to meet the educational requirements of the country.

Primary education.

440. There were 45,431 primary schools for Indian boys in 1933-34 and on 31st March 1934, 1,790,533 pupils (including 116,146 girls) were registered in them. Besides these, the primary classes of secondary schools had 182,881 pupils. There was a total increase of 68,863 pupils in the year under report, which may be considered satisfactory in view of the present economic depression. The percentage of boys under instruction in primary schools to the total number of boys of school-going age was 50 per cent. On the 31st March 1934 the primary schools were attended by 817,087 Hindus and 1,034,276 Muhammadans. The percentages of Hindu and Muhammadan pupils to the total Hindu and Muhammadan male population were 7·2 and 7·3, respectively. The total cost of maintaining the schools amounted to Rs. 64,99,588, of which Rs. 21,62,627 came from Provincial

Revenues, Rs. 7,55,433 from district funds and Rs. 7,38,656 from municipal funds. The expenditure incurred by district boards on primary education was smaller in the year under review than in the previous year owing to the reduced income of district boards on account of the economic distress prevailing in the country. The expenditure of the municipalities, however, showed an increase of Rs. 20,568. During the year the number of panchayeti union schools for boys rose from 904 to 912 and a grant of Rs. 1,41,048 was sanctioned for the maintenance of the schools for boys and girls. Further extension of the scheme had to be postponed owing to the gradual application of the Bengal (Rural) Primary Education Act of 1930. No new primary schools under Mr. Biss's scheme for urban areas could be established on account of financial stringency. On the 31st March 1934 there were in Calcutta 503 primary schools for Indian boys attended by 40,379 pupils, of whom 25,697 were Hindus and 14,472 were Muhammadans. The total cost of maintaining primary schools in Calcutta amounted to Rs. 7,26,795. With regard to the scheme for instroduction of free and compulsory primary education in Ward No. IX of Calcutta which was sanctioned by Government in January 1933, the Corporation have recently sanctioned the appointment of an Attendance Officer. During the year there were 982 night schools with 24,756 pupils. It was stated in the last report that as it was not possible on account of the financial stringency to introduce the full scheme under the Bengal (Rural) Primary Education Act, 1930, Government sanctioned an optional scheme for such district boards as would agree to place at the disposal of the district school boards their existing allotments for primary education. In accordance with this optional scheme district school boards have been functioning since 1st April 1934, in the districts of Birbhum, Dinajpur, Bogra, Pabna, Mymensingh, Noakhali and Chittagong which have accepted the scheme. Government have promised that all sums which they have been so far spending on primary education in rural areas in a district will be handed over to the district school boards in the shape of a lump grant. The District Boards of Dacca and Nadia have expressed their willingness to participate in the scheme. The District Board of Murshidabad which once turned down the proposal has again taken it up for consideration.

Training of male teachers.

441. The two Government Training Colleges at Calcutta and Dacca for secondary school teachers registered 159 pupils on 31st March 1934 against 151 on the corresponding date of the previous year. All the students were trained for B.T. examination. The bulk of the students admitted to both Training Colleges last

sessions were aided school teachers and young graduates desiring to take up the work of teaching. The recommendations made by the Retrenchment Committee of 1932 in connection with the Training Colleges for men, viz., (*i*) temporary closing down of one of the two Training Colleges, and (*ii*) total suspension of the award of stipends could not be accepted by the department. Out of 176 students who appeared in the B.T. examination in 1934, 145 were successful.

First grade training or normal schools.

442. On the 31st March 1934 there were 5 normal or first grade training schools in the Presidency which were attended by 401 pupils as against 414 pupils on the corresponding date of the previous year. The total cost of maintaining these schools amounted to Rs. 1,25,750, almost the whole of which was met from Provincial Revenues. One hundred and sixty-eight students out of 228 students who went up for the examination passed.

Guru and muallim training schools.

443. The total number of guru and muallim training schools, which train teachers for boys' primary schools and muktabs was 85 on 31st March 1934, as against 86 on 31st March 1933. They were attended by 2,241 students as compared with 2,179 in the year 1932-33. Of these schools, 79 were managed by Government, one by the Corporation of Calcutta and 5 by Missionary Societies. Of the 2,285 candidates who appeared in the final examination from these schools, 1,867 were successful. The total cost of maintenance of these schools was Rs. 3,60,053, of which Rs. 3,37,600 was borne by the Provincial Revenues.

Training of women teachers.

444. The problem of making suitable provision for the training of women teachers of secondary schools had to be taken up during the year under report, as the authorities of the Diocesan College decided to close their training department from April 1934. The authorities of the Scottish Church College agreed to open the B.T. class from July 1934 with suitable aid from Government. The training classes attached to the Diocesan College and Loreto House had 40 girls under training on 31st March 1934. Out of 29 students who went up for the last B.T. examination, 18 were successful. The number of training schools and classes for training women teachers employed in primary schools and the lower classes of secondary schools in Bengal remained unchanged at 10. Of these, 3 were directly managed by Government and the rest by Christian and Brahmo Missions, as in the previous year. There were 256 pupils in these schools as against 241 in the previous year.

Professional and technical education, Bengal Engineering College.

445. On the 31st March 1934 the Bengal Engineerign College had 283 pupils on its rolls against 288 in the previous year. Forty-seven and 40 students passed in B.E. and I.E. examinations, respectively. Six obtained diplomas in Mechanical and Electrical Engineering and 3 passed the Associateship in Mechanical Engineering during the year. The average annual cost per student was Rs. 1,304, of which Rs. 1,086 was borne by Government. The corresponding figures for the previous year were Rs. 1,234 and Rs. 1,014.

Ahsanullah School of Engineering, Dacca.

446. On the 31st March 1934 the Ahsanullah School of Engineering, Dacca, had 409 pupils on its rolls against 433 in the preceding year. The school passed 82 students in the Overseer examination and 77 students in the Sub-Overseer examination during the year. The cost of maintaining the school amounted to Rs. 1,28,652, of which Rs. 84,580 was borne from Provincial Revenues. The corresponding amounts in the previous year were Rs. 1,33,110 and Rs. 82,877, respectively. The annual cost of educating a student was Rs. 303, of which Rs. 199 was met from Provincial Revenues. The corresponding figures in the previous year were Rs. 296 and Rs. 184, respectively.

Commercial schools : Government Commercial Institute, Calcutta.

447. The number of Commercial Schools in the Presidency fell during the period from 24 to 22. The Government Commercial Institute, Calcutta, registered 396 pupils on 31st March 1934 against 373 pupils in the previous year. The schools passed 82 students in the final course examination against 44 in the previous year. In the special commercial course examination 32 passed against 57 in the previous year. The upkeep of the institution amounted to Rs. 58,877 during the year under report, of which Rs, 31,015 was borne by Provincial Revenues. The corresponding figures for the previous year were Rs. 65,619 and Rs. 39,850, respectively.

Government School of Art, Calcutta.

448. The Government School of Art, Calcutta, had 280 students on 31st March 1934 as against 254 in the previous year. The cost of maintenance amounted in the year under report to Rs. 41,843, of which Rs. 28,922 was borne by Government. The corresponding amounts in the previous year were Rs. 42,625 and Rs. 30,197, respectively.

Other schools of Art.

449. Besides the Government School of Art, Calcutta, there were 4 other art schools in the Presidency, as in the previous years three of these are located in Calcutta and one at Maheswarpasa in Khulna district. These schools had altogether 265 pupils

on 31st March 1934 and the cost of managing them during the year was Rs. 28,749, of which Rs. 7,812 was contributed from Provincial Revenues.

Education of Indian girls and women.

450. The number of schools of all grades and types for Indian girls during the year under review increased from 18,538 to 19,427. The number of arts colleges for women in the Presidency remained unchanged at 6, but the number of pupils attending them rose from 508 to 596. 279 girls passed the I.A. and I.Sc. examinations, while 119 secured the Bachelor's degree against 195 and 106 in the previous year. At the Matriculation examination of 1934, 669 passed as against 547 in the previous year. Music continued to be taught in the Bethune College, as in the previous years. There was such a strong demand for facilities for high school education for Indian girls that the authorities of some boys' high schools, e.g., Faridpur, Serajganj have opened separate sections for girls in their schools. The number of primary schools for girls stood at 18,871 with 495,430 pupils on their rolls during the year under report. Private agencies such as the Society for the Improvement of Backward Classes and Missionary Societies have done most valuable work for the spread of education among Indian girls by maintaining numerous primary schools for girls.

Education of Europeans and Anglo-Indians.

451. The number of institutions for the education of Europeans and Anglo-Indians on the 31st March 1934 was 67 against 68 in the previous year. Of these 67 institutions, 3 are for special instruction and 64 for general education. The 64 general schools comprised 24 secondary, 19 higher grade, 20 primary and one ungraded schools. Government directly controlled 3 institutions, viz., the Victoria Boys' and Dow Hill Girls' Schools at Kurseong for general education and the Dow Hill Training College, Kurseong, for the training of school mistresses. The rest were controlled by religious and philanthropic societies and by railway authorities. The total number of pupils (boys and girls) in European schools was 11,458 against 11,664 in the prveious year. The non-European pupils in European schools numbered 2,556 during the year. The total expenditure on the education of European and Anglo-Indian children during the year under review was Rs. 35,92,761 as compared with Rs. 35,51,300 in the previous year. The total expenditure on scholarships during the year was Rs. 28,039 as compared with Rs. 27,178 in the previous year. No European or Anglo-Indian male teacher was deputed during the year to the Chelmsford Training College in the Punjab. The Dow Hill Training College, Kurseong, is the only institution for the training of European and Anglo-Indian women teachers in the Presidency.

There were 17 students on 31st March 1934 as compared with 18 on the corresponding date of the previous year. All the 7 candidates examined in the previous November passed the examination. The Children's House, Kurseong, which trains mentally and physically defective European children, registered 24 pupils on 31st March 1934 as compared with the same number in the previous year. Stipends amounting to Rs. 2,520 were awarded during the year for education and maintenance of children in this House.

Muhammadan education.

452. During the year under review the number of Moslem pupils reading in all types of educational institutions for Indians rose from 1,476,797 to 1,541,342, of whom 1,178,596 were boys and 362,746 were girls as compared with 1,101,829 Hindu boys and 275,091 Hindu girls on 31st March 1934. The proportion of Muhammadan students to the total number of pupils under instruction was 51·9 per cent. as against 51·7 per cent. in the preceding year. In arts and professional colleges the proportion of Moslems to the total number of students under instruction was 13·3 per cent. and 11·5 per cent., respectively, as compared with 13·4 per cent. and 11·8 per cent., respectively, in the previous year. In the high and middle stages of instruction Moslem students constituted 21·2 per cent. and 24·6 per cent., respectively, of the pupils of all communities as compared with 20·2 per cent. and 24·7 per cent. in the previous year. In the primary stage the proportion was 55·01 per cent. and in special schools 69·3 per cent. of the total number of students enrolled. The number of Islamic intermediate colleges in the province remained unchanged at 3 and there were 154 students in them as against 142 in the previous year. Of the 72 students that appeared in the Islamic Intermediate examination in 1934, 55 were successful. During the year the number of madrassas increased from 710 to 725 but the number of pupils attending them fell from 66,692 to 65,683. Of the total number of madrassas 592 were of the reformed type, and 133 of the old type. The number of maktabs rose from 26,405 to 26,743, of which 17,270 were for boys and 9,473 for girls. The number of pupils reading in maktabs also increased during the period from 867,556 to 931,765. Of the total number of pupils, 647,786 were boys and 283,979 were girls. The number of Muhammadan girls reading in all classes of recognised institutions was 355,065 as against 329,150 in the previous year. Of the total number 20 were in arts and professional colleges, 210 were in high stage, 422 in middle stage, 354,083 in the primary stage and 330 in special schools. For the encouragement of Moslem education in the province, Government have provided the following facilities, viz., (1) reservation of places in favour of Moslem students in Government and aided

schools, (2) grant of special scholarships and stipends and free-studentships to the extent of 15 per cent. of their own enrolment and (3) higher grants to denominational schools, e.g., 50 per cent. higher grants to recognised maktabs.

Oriental education.

453. Both Universities of Calcutta and Dacca provide instruction and facilities for research in higher Sanskrit and Islamic studies, and Sanskrit and Islamic studies are also pursued in tols and madrassas. The Bengal Sanskrit Association continues to control Sanskrit studies all over the province. The East Bengal Saraswati Samaj conducts its own examinations in the East Bengal districts.

Education of the sons of chiefs and nobles.

454. In Bengal there is no school specially set apart for the education of the sons of chiefs and nobles, but in the Nawab Bahadur's Institution at Murshidabad there are special arrangements for the education of boys of the Nizamat family. The number of Nizamat boys under instruction during the year was the same as in the previous year, viz., 26. The upkeep of the hostel attached to the Nawab Bahadur's Institution reserved for these boys cost Government Rs. 4,984 during the year as compared with Rs. 5,440 in 1932-33.

Education of the children of the backward classes.

455. On 31st March 1934, 384,308 boys and 77,845 girls belonging to the educationally backward classes were under instruction in various types of schools and colleges in the Presidency against 368,950 boys and 68,270 girls in the preceding year. It is gratifying to note that the number of girls receiving education has been steadily on the increase. Schools for backward class children continued to be maintained for the most part by Missionary Societies, or philanthropic bodies, such as the Society for the Improvement of the Backward Classes, the Bengal Social Service League, the Hindu Relief Society, the American Baptist Mission of Midnapore and the Wesleyan Mission of Bankura. Government gave aid to these institutions and accorded special privileges to their pupils. The Society for the Improvement of the Backward Classes, for instance, maintained 444 schools and received a grant of Rs. 9,250 during the year. In November 1933 revised rules for the award of free-studentships in Government and Government-aided institutions were approved by Government in which it was laid down that pupils belonging to educationally backward classes will be allowed free-studentships subject to minimum of 2 up to an annual limit of 15 per cent. of their enrolment.

Education of criminal classes.

456. The industrial school maintained by the Salvation Army near Saidpur in the district of Rangpur for the children of Karwal Nats, a criminal tribe, was attended by 36 boys and 36 girls against 35 boys and 33 girls in the preceding year. The

elementary school which was started for the education of prisoners of Jalpaiguri Jail was abolished during the year under review. The Reformatory and Industrial Schools, Alipore, had 201 inmates on 31st March 1934 against 198 on the corresponding date of the previous year. The upkeep of these institutions cost Rs. 44,336 which was met entirely from Provincial Revenues. The Borstal School at Bankura had 188 pupils on its roll against 182 in the previous year, and cost Government Rs. 32,730.

Education of defectives.

457. The Childrens' House, Kurseong, for defective European children has already been referred to. The Blind School at Behala had 60 boys and 19 girls during the year against 63 boys and 23 girls in the previous year. The cost of maintenance of the school amounted to Rs. 31,567, of which Rs. 7,620 came from Provincial Revenues. The Calcutta Deaf and Dumb School had 213 pupils against 207 in the previous year. The five deaf and dumb schools at Dacca, Mymensingh, Barisal, Chittagong and Rajshahi had a total roll strength of 85 pupils. The most noticeable event of the year has been the establishment of a school for defective children, called the Bodhana Niketan, at Jhargram in the district of Midnapore. At present 8 pupils are being taught there on a really sound psychological basis. Perhaps it is at present the only school of its kind in India.

Tea-Garden schools.

458. In the Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri districts there were 171 tea-garden schools with 3,479 pupils during 1933-34 against 169 schools with 3,225 pupils. The total cost of these schools was Rs. 25,706, of which public funds contributed Rs. 11,476.

Education of factory and colliery children.

459. There were 6 primary scholos in the district of 24-Parganas for the education of factory children. For the children of the Madrassi mill hands there is a Telegu class attached to the aided primary school at Titagar. The Rifle and Metal Factories at Ichapur maintain 2 primary schools. In the coal mine areas of the Burdwan district there were some colliery primary schools specially meant for the education of miners' children; and some mills in the Hooghly district maintained or subsidised primary schools for the children of the mill hands. The Railway authorities at Khargpur maintained a primary school for the education of the children of railway workshop labourers.

Cantonment schools.

460. The cantonment area of Barrackpore had 10 schools with 773 pupils in 1933-34 against 8 schools with 732 pupils in 1932-33. The two primary schools at Jalapahar and Lebong cantonments together had 108 pupils.

Registration.

Progress and statistics.

461. There were 387 offices working at the close of the year 1933 against 405 at the end of the preceding year. One office was

opened on 1st September 1933 at Balichak in Midnapore and 19 permanent offices which were working at a loss were abolished as a result of the recommendation of the Retrenchment Committee. The total income of the department decreased from Rs. 18,69,941 in 1932 to Rs. 18,56,028 in 1933 i.e., by ·7 per cent. The percentage of decrease in receipts is proportionately much smaller than the percentage of decrease in registrations. This is due to the increase in the rates of *ad valorem* fees chargeable on documents of values not exceeding Rs. 250 which came into force on the 1st August 1933. The total expenditure of the department also decreased from Rs. 16,32,303 in 1932, to Rs. 15,94,898 in 1933, i.e., by 2·3 per cent. The decrease in expenditure in spite of the restoration of 5 per cent. cut in pay is due chiefly to measures of retrenchment. The total number of transactions registered under the Indian Registration Act was 910,712 in 1933 against 9,30,870 in 1932; a decrease of 2·2 per cent. against a decrease of 2·4 per cent. in 1932.

Under the Marriage Act III of 1872.

462. Ninety marriages were registered in 1933 against 50 marriages registered in 1932. At the end of the year 1933, there were 43 Marriage Registrars including 28 *ex officio* Registrars, against 41 Marriage Registrars in the previous year.

Working of the Muhammadan Registration Act and the Kazis Act.

463. Bengal Act I of 1876 and Kazis Act XII of 1880 were in force in the whole of the Presidency. As noticed in previous reports the Kazis Act (XII of 1880) has not yet attained that degree of popularity that it should have, owing to the fact that the services of private persons in villages still continue to be requisitioned freely for the performance of marriage ceremonies. The total number of ceremonies, both marriages and divorces, registered in the Presidency during 1933 was 60,050 against 58,545 in the preceding year, showing an increase of 2·5 per cent. The total receipts including gratuities of Muhammadan Registrars amounted to Rs. 1,39,725 during 1933, against Rs. 1,26,766 in the preceding year, showing an increase of 10·2 per cent. The increase in registration is chiefly due to the opening of several new offices in the preceding year. The increase in the income is due to the increase in registration as also to the revised scales of *ad valorem* fees which came into force from 1st September 1933.

The Bengal Act VI of 1932 (The Bengal Muhammadan Marriages and Divorces Registration Amendment Act, 1932) providing for the abolition of the system of gratuity (*nazrana*) and taking power to make rules prescribing fees chargeable by Muhammadan Registrars for the registration of ceremonies came into force on the 1st September 1933.

CHAPTER XII.

Trade and Industry.

Industries Department.

[Report on the administration of the Industries Department for the year 1933-34.]

General.

464. Although the economic conditions to which reference was made in the previous year's review continued throughout the year under report without appreciable change and were far from encouraging to large scale industries depending on world conditions, the industries related to the internal trade of the country were more resilient and were thus able to provide a more hopeful record of expansion and development.

Research and demonstration.

465. In the sphere of small and cottage industries to which the department has paid special attention the demonstration parties established under the Unemployment Relief Scheme were able to bring forcibly before the public notice the many advantages to such industries resulting from the adoption of improved processes and methods based on up-to-date knowledge. In this way the scheme was definitely successful in bringing into existence numerous soap, shoe-making, pottery, brass, cutlery, jute and wool weaving industries able to attract a growing market for their products.

Industrial survey.

466. As a result of the activities of the two Industrial Surveyors employed under the scheme a detailed survey of the districts of Pabna and Bogra was completed and the work in the districts of Noakhali and Hooghly taken up. A Marketing Investigator was appointed on a temporary basis during the year under report in connection with the collection of economic information relating to demand and supply of indigenous products of small and cottage industries with a view to finding markets.

Art and craft industry.

467. A notable advance was made during the year under report in the development of the art craft industry of the province by the opening of a depot in Calcutta under the designation of the "Good Companions" for the promotion of the sale of products of Mission and other cottage industries. The results have been most promising.

Chemical section.

468. The work in the Chemical Section was mainly concerned with research and investigation into the possibilities of the utilisation of the local sources of vegetable oils which hitherto had little or no economic use, for industrial purposes. It was possible to give further impetus to the development of the local soap industry as a result of those activities.

Engineering section.

469. In the Industrial Engineer's Section problems relating to the development and improvement of cottage crafts and small industries by means of experiments and researches engaged special attention. Further experiments for the improvement of the indigenous brass and bell-metal, umbrella, cutlery and pottery industries were carried out during the year under report and satisfactory results obtained.

Bengal Tanning Institute.

470. The Bengal Tanning Institute maintained its record of useful work in all the main branches of its activities, viz., research, instruction and demonstration, during the year under review. The investigations carried out at the Institute and the technical knowledge in the improved tanning process dessiminated by it proved of great utility to the industry. The tanning industry in Bengal particularly the manufactures of the better grades of chrome upper leather derived substantial advantages as a result of the opportunities offered in Empire Markets by the Ottawa Agreement of 1932.

Technical education.

471. The progress of technical education in all its branches including weaving education was maintained during the year under review. In order to make the instruction imparted at the Government Weaving Institute, Serampore, more attractive and useful arrangements were made during the year with the authorities of the Banga Laxmi Cotton Mills also located at Serampore to give the students of the institute the benefit of a course of practical training in the mills simultaneously with theoretical training at the institute.

Manufacture and Mines.

Jute.

472. The area under jute cultivation incluidng the Cooch Bihar and Tripura States was 2,168,700 acres during 1933-34 against 1,845,700 acres (revised) in the previous year. The total outturn was 7,092,100 bales against 6,213,500 bales (revised) in the preceding year. There were 92 jute mills at work against 91 in the previous year, but the average number of operatives decreased by 4,793 to 248,441. The number of looms and spindles at work was 56,908 and 1,145,855, respectively, as against 58,551 and 1,195,583, respectively, in 1932-33. Two jute mills with 205 looms and 9,046 spindles remained closed during the year.

The authorised capital in rupees, sterling and dollars as reported by 87 mills was Rs. 23,08,82,000, £31,75,000 and $12,000,000; five mills being either proprietary or private concerns did not disclose their capital.

Cotton.

473. Seventeen cotton mills were worked during 1933-34 employing on an average 20,515 operatives as against 18,956 in 1932-33. The number of looms and spindles at work was 6,192 and 302,367, respectively, as against 5,710 and 314,192, respectively, in the previous year.

Silk.

474. There were two silk mills under the operation of the Indian Factories Act employing on an average 374 operatives daily. The total production of disease-free seed cocoons during the year was 38,766 kahons, 18,718 kahons being raised by Government nurseries and 20,048 kahons by private agencies under Government supervision.

Sugar.

475. The area under sugar crops increased from 290,700 acres in 1932-33 to 310,200 in 1933-34. Eight sugar mills were at work during the year employing on an average 1,379 operatives daily. Two small sugar grinding mills which were under the operation of the Indian Factories Act also worked during the year employing on an average 22 operatives daily.

Tea.

476. The area under tea in 1933 was 209,688 acres (including gardens in the Tripura State), as against 207,771 acres (revised) in the previous year. The quantity of tea manufactured was 98,441,711 lb. against 110,506,855 lb. in 1932. There were 440 tea plantations employing on an average 184,762 permanent and 7,841 temporary hands daily. There were 286 tea factories under the operation of the Indian Factories Act and the total daily average number of operatives employed was 15,508. This number excludes persons employed in the gardens outside the factory premises.

Paper.

477. There were three paper mills at work during the year employing on an average 4,472 persons daily. They produced 31,366 tons of paper valued approximately at Rs. 1,24,00,000.

Wool.

478. The Dacca Central Jail Woollen Mill with 16 looms and 576 spindles was at work during the year. It employed on an average 145 persons daily and produced 104,295 lb. of blankets valued approximately at Rs. 66,813.

Saltpetre.

479. No licence was granted for the refinement of saltpetre during 1933-34.

Coal.

480. The number of mines in the Raniganj Coalfield worked, under the Indian Mines Act, 1923, during the year 1933 was

195 against 197 in the preceding year. The daily average number of persons employed in these mines was 43,651. The total output of coal raised during the year fell to 5,691,891 tons from 5,782,603 tons in the previous year. The supply of labour was ample. There was a further reduction in the rates paid to the workmen. The weekly earnings of many miners were also adversely affected by the fact that many collieries only worked three or four days per week during a considerable part of the year. A number of collieries had again to close down owing to the lack of demand for the coal produced by them. The low price of foodstuffs, however, alleviated the condition of the work-people to a considerable extent. In spite of the depressed condition of the trade the relations between the employers of labour and the workmen were cordial. The number of coal mines using electric power was 48 against 51 in the previous year and the number of mechanical ventilators and safety lamps in use was 25 and 10,602, respectively, against 27 and 11,490 in 1932. The number of women employed underground was 4,551 or about 14 per cent. of the total number employed underground. The prices of practically all grades of coal continued to fall during the year, the sole exception being the coal of the Central Provinces. The average price of coal was the lowest in the Jharia coalfields. In consequence of the fall in prices the wages paid to labour were extremely low and there was very little expenditure on development and maintenance at the mines. There was a decrease of over 300,000 tons of coal exported due in part, to the fact that less coal was taken by sea and railways in Southern India and Burma. As a whole, conditions so far as the rates for the various grades of coal were concerned, were even worse than in 1932. The work of the Indian Coal Grading Board maintained the same high standard during the year. The Indian Soft Coke Cess Committee continued to carry on extensive house-to-house propaganda. The Committee decided to carry out research work in order to investigate the possibility of improving the method of manufacture of soft coke and the investigation was entrusted to the Principal Indian School of Mines.

Miscellaneous Manufactures and Minor Industries.

481. A small open pan sugar factory was started at Lalpukur in the Lalbagh subdivision and a shoe factory at Baniagram in police-station Shamserganj in the Jangipur subdivision of the Murshidabad district. In the 24-Parganas district the ice factory at Hasnabad was extended by the addition of a rice mill on a small scale to utilise the steam power during the winter when the ice factory is not worked. The two rice mills in the Basirhat Presidency division.

subdivision—one at Arbalia and the other at Basirhat—worked throughout the year, and, attached to the mill at Arbalia, was a small manufactory for making hosiery underwear. In the Diamond Harbour subdivision socks were manufactured on knitting machines and tiles of the Raniganj pattern.

Burdwan division.

482. Small sugar factories were started in important centres of the industry at Gopalpur in the Nator subdivision of the Rajshahi district at Bochaganj in the district of Dinajpur and in the vicinity of Rangpur town. A Government demonstration sugar factory was also started at Rajshahi by the Agriculture Department. In the district of Bogra a soap factory on a small scale was started at Sultanganj and an umbrella factory in Bogra town. Both these concerns were reported to be thriving. Jute weaving was started at Adamdighi and Hilli in the district of Bogra by a number of young men trained by the Industries Department. The rice mills at Hilli, Jaipurhat and Talora did good business. The hosiery industry in the Pabna district was somewhat better off than last year owing to tariff protection. Umbrella making, shoe making and the manufacture of bell-metal articles were undertaken by a number of young men trained by the Industrial Demonstration parties. The weaving industry in the Serajganj subdivision was in a flourishing condition in spite of trade depression. A small open pan sugar factory was established at Panchanandapur in the district of Malda. The silk industry of Malda further declined owing to the dumping of foreign silk at abnormally low prices. The lac industry was in a moribund condition but towards the end of the year there was an improvement in the price and the industry improved.

Rajshahi division.

483. A slight improvement was noticeable in the coal industry in the Asansol subdivision of the Burdwan district at the end of the year due to a greater demand for "export" coal, and it was possible to reduce the large stocks of first class coal at collieries to a considerable extent. The demand for internal consumption showed little or no improvement. The condition of the Indian Standard Wagon Company, Limited, was on the whole good during the year, while that of the Indian Iron and Steel Company, Limited, was no worse than in the preceding year. The indigenous small industries of the district, viz., pottery, paper, tussar, soap, blanket, etc., suffered from trade depression. In the Birbhum district a small match factory was started in the cold weather and the matches turned out found a ready sale in the local bazars. The condition of the other industries remained unchanged. Two new rice mills were started at Pandua in the Sadar subdivision of the Hooghly district. In the Serampore subdivision, the shoe factory of Messrs. Bata and Company, at

Konnogore, showed considerable activity resulting in an increased production of canvas rubber-soled shoes. The Rampooria Cotton Mills underwent expansion. In the district of Bankura, the number of industrial establishments decreased from 56 to 52 and a number of weavers' co-operative societies were liquidated. Most of the industries of the district suffered from general trade depression as well as keen competition from outside. The brass and bell-metal industries of the Ghatal subdivision of the Midnapore district further declined being unable to withstand the competition from aluminium wares. The handloom industry showed some signs of improvement.

Dacca division.

484. There was no change to report in the condition of the existing industries in the Dacca, Mymensingh and Bakarganj districts. Of the two shoe factories started at Rajbari in the district of Faridpur, one was closed down and the other was not faring well. The sugar mills at Pangsa and Daulatdia were closed. A number of young men trained by the Industries Department started two glazed pottery factories at Rajbari.

Chittagong division.

485. A match factory and a factory for manufacture of aluminium wares were started in Chittagong town. The perfume, chemical, medicine, oil, soap, umbrella and *pati* making industries were in flourishing condition.

The Indian Factories Act, 1911.

Number of factories and factory operatives.

486. The number of registered factories at the close of the year 1933 was 1,649 as against 1,615 in the previous year. Sixty-nine factories were registered during the year and thirty-five were struck off the register. Of the total number of factories, 1,227 were perennial concerns and 422 were seasonal. One hundred and twenty-one factories did not work during the year. These included 43 rice mills, 16 oil mills, 15 jute presses, and 11 general engineering works. The number of factories that worked was 1,528 as against 1,487 in the previous year. The average daily number of operatives that worked in the registered factories was 455,018, as against 454,007 in the preceding year. In spite of the small increase in the total number of operatives, jute mills and railway workshops again registered comparatively heavy decreases, viz., from 254,314 and 27,655, respectively, in 1932 to 246,717 and 25,590 in 1933. Perennial factories employed 406,130 persons and 48,888 were employed in seasonal concerns. The number of women and children employed during the year was 56,935 and 4,471, respectively. The corresponding figures in 1932 were 59,508 and 5,087.

Inspection.

487. The number of visits paid by the Inspectors of Factories was 3,303 to registered factories and 198 to unregistered factories. Seven hundred and fifty-eight factories were visited once, 296 twice, 134 three times, and 208 more than three times. The number of inspections made by District Magistrates was 37.

Sanitary conditions.

488. Sanitary conditions in the larger factories are reasonably good and the number of conveniences provided is generally in accordance with the scale laid down in the Factories Rules, but in the smaller concerns progress in the improvement of sanitation is slow. This is due largely to the lack of adequate drainage and conservancy arrangements in many of the municipal areas. The present depressed condition of industry in general is another factor which is impeding the progress of sanitary arrangements. In issuing orders with regard to sanitation, cleanliness and water-supply, the Factories Department take care to see that only the minimum requirements involving as little expenditure as possible are insisted on. It is however satisfactory to note that plans for five septic tank latrines and two activated sludge plants were approved by the Public Health Department for installation in six factories.

Health.

489. The general health of factory operative has been normal during the year. Malaria, as usual, has been the chief cause of absence from work on grounds of illness.

Wages.

490. Durnig the year under report, an investigation into the rates of wages paid to industrial workers in the province was carried out and the resultant statistics have been published in Appendix 9 of the annual report on the working of the Indian Factories Act in Bengal during 1933. A similar investigation was carried out in 1927 and the result was incorporated in the report for that year. These statistics show an all-round fall in the wages level since 1927 averaging approximately ten per cent.

Housing and welfare work.

491. The housing of factory operatives, their conditions of living and the welfare work carried out on their behalf remained in much the same position as in the past few years. It may, however, be noted in this connection that housing and welfare schemes are confined almost entirely to jute mills and a few other well-organised concerns. It is in regard to the smaller types of factories that improvement in this direction is most needed, but so long as such matters are left to the voluntary efforts of individual employers, substantial all-round progress cannot be expected.

Safety.

492. The Factory Inspection Department gives close and constant attention to ensure that the safety guards and devices

used in factories are of the right type and fully comply with the provisions of the Act. Two safety circulars were issued during the year under report, one relating to the dangers attendant upon heating hollow cast-iron pump buckets on open fires and the other to the dangers of hand-feeding loose jute dust into boiler furnaces. It is gratifying to be able to record that in practically all the jute mills where jute dust was handled into furnaces, the practice has been discontinued and one or other of the methods recommended in the circular has been adopted.

The "Safety Agreement" referred to in the previous reports has worked satisfactorily. The safety devices installed under the agreement have been tested by the Factories Department and with the exception of automatic locking gears fitted on carding machines they all proved satisfactory. Further investigation was made with the automatic locking gear and ultimately a design has been found to solve the problem finally. This design has been recommended to the mills for adoption.

Accidents.

493. The total number of accidents reported during the year from registered factories was 3,630, of which 49 were fatal, 884 serious and 2,697 minor. This is an increase of 20 fatal, 9 serious and 592 minor or a total of 621 accidents compared with the previous year's figures. The rate of accidents per thousand persons employed during the year was 7·98 as against 6·63 in the preceding year. No accident to children under twelve years of age was reported during the year.

Prosecutions.

494. The total number of cases instituted under the Indian Factories Act during the year was 305, of which 241 ended in conviction, 7 in acquittal, 6 were withdrawn and 51 remained pending at the close of the year. Of the 25 cases pending at the close of the preceding year, 21 ended in conviction, one in acquittal and three were withdrawn. Eight appeals against conviction were preferred during the year. Of these, two were dismissed and the sentences upheld; in another, the conviction was set aside; four remained undecided at the close of the year and in the eighth, the fine imposed by the lower court was reduced. In four cases, the High Court was moved by the Factories Department for enhancement of penalty; all these were pending at the close of the year.

Labour Disputes.

495. The total number of trade disputes in the year, involving stoppages of work, was 31 as against 33 in the previous year. All the disputes began and all except one ended during the year.

The total number of workers involved in these disputes was 35,352, as compared with 66,155 in the previous year, and the aggregate resulting loss was 296,660 working days, as against 1,049,684 in the year 1932-33. Twenty of the disputes arose from issues concerning wages, one from demands relating to details of leave and hours of work, six from disciplinary action involving discharge or dismissal of staff and four from miscellaneous issues. Three of the disputes were settled in favour of the workmen either wholly or in part and 21 against them. In six cases work was resumed either as a result of compromise or pending negotiations, and one was still in progress when the year ended.

Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926.

496. During the year 17 trade unions including a federation of trade union were registered under the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, and the registration of two trade unions was cancelled. The total number of registered trade unions on the Bengal register at the close of the year was 46, as compared with 31 at the close of the previous year. Exclusive of the federation of trade unions, which had a membership of 14 affiliated unions, the total membership of the 40 unions from which returns have been received at the close of the year was 79,182, composed of 78,708 males and 474 females. Thirty-three of the 40 unions had a total credit balance of Rs. 1,55,618-11-10 and the remaining 7 had deficits totalling Rs. 6,632-8. The federation closed the year with a credit balance of annas 8.

Steam Boiler Commission.

497. The Commission held eleven ordinary meetings for the transaction of its business during the year 1933-34. The total number of boilers on the register at the close of the year was 4,205 and the number of applications for inspection of boilers received during the year was 3,234. Two hundred and sixty-four applications for inspection received during the previous year could not be complied with in that year. 3,230 inspections were completed during the year under review. The difference in the number of boilers on the register and number of applications for inspection received during the year is due mainly to a number of boilers remaining unused owing to the present general trade depression. In addition to the annual thorough inspection, other inspections were undertaken by the Inspectors for the purpose of ascertaining whether certificates should be revoked or suspended. Informal inspections of boilers whilst under steam were also

made to see that certificated boilers were being worked in accordance with the terms of their certificates. Four prosecutions for offences under the Indian Boilers Act were instituted. Convictions were obtained in all four cases. One hundred and twelve boilers were found to be defective and detailed instructions were given for the necessary repairs. Five boilers were condemned as unfit for further use. It is satisfactory to note that there was no serious accident during the year. The receipts of the Commission from all sources amounted to Rs. 2,78,724, of which Rs. 1,44,474 represented fees for the inspection of boilers in Bengal. The inspection fees for the boilers in Bihar and Orissa and Assam were Rs. 90,254 and Rs. 36,357, respectively. The balance of the receipts represented interest on investment, fines realised for breach of the law, rent of bungalows and refunds. The total expenditure in India during the year amounted to Rs. 2,46,792.

Bengal Smoke Nuisances Commission.

498. The Commission held twelve meetings during the year 1933. Seventy-two plans of furnaces, etc., were examined and approved. Of these, 64 were prepared in the office of the Commission. The number of inspections and tests carried out for educational purposes was 4,130. Statutory warnings were issued in 7 cases, telephonic warnings were given in 1,434 cases, and 1,119 cases were reported to the owners for their departmental action. The number of prosecutions during the year was 11 and the maximum fine imposed under the Act was Rs. 150 and the minimum Rs. 10. The average emission of smoke from each factory chimney during the year was ·08 minutes of dense black smoke per hour, the same as during the two preceding years. In 1906, when the work of the department began, the figure stood at 13·1 minutes per hour. Domestic smoke is outside the control of the Commission. But for the last three years, the Commission have used, with the assistance and co-operation of the Calcutta Municipal Health Department and the various Ward Health Associations, persuasive and educative methods to minimise this undoubted nuisance. As usual, the Commission took part in the Calcutta Health Welfare Week, and presented exhibits illustrating the effects of smoke nuisance and air pollution on the local respiratory mortality, the poisoning of food supplies, on trees, buildings and distant localities. The various Health Exhibitions held in the city are awakening the interest of the public in the clean air problem. During the year under review the Commission received 83 complaints regarding excessive smoke as against 53 during the previous year. These were investigated and whenever possible necessary relief was given.

Workmen's Compensation Act (VIII of 1922).

General.

499. The total number of applications filed during 1933 under section 10 of the Workmen's Compensation Act was 108 in which claims were instituted with the Commissioner for Workmen's Compensation in cases where the employers refused or omitted to pay compensation as against 160 applications filed during the previous year. This noticeable decrease is due to the corresponding increase in the number of deposits and applications informally dealt with by the Commissioner in an extra-judicial capacity, owing to the absence of substantial contest or the presence of technical defects in form or procedure. The number of such applications informally dealt with during 1933 was 177 against 107 in 1932. The year under review recorded an increase in the number of agreements filed, there being 227 in 1933 as against 206 in 1932. Compensation was awarded in 198 cases during the year as against 225 cases in 1932.

Statistics.

500. Statistical returns were received during 1933 from 1,596 concerns as against 1,541 in the preceding year. The average number of workers employed daily in these concerns was 527,710 adults and 4,896 minors; the corresponding figures for the previous year were 515,635 adults and 4,806 minors. Compensation is reported to have been paid in 2,190 cases against 2,029 in the previous year. Of these accidents 77 resulted in death, 217 in permanent disablement and 1,896 in temporary disablement. Rs. 43,012 was shown as compensation paid for the fatal accidents, Rs. 46,082 for permanent disablement and Rs. 23,385 for temporary disablement as against Rs. 33,560, Rs. 45,598 and Rs. 24,401, respectively, in the previous year. The total amount of compensation deposited with the Commissioner during the year was Rs. 1,43,829 as against Rs. 1,46,272 in 1932. The number of applications under section 8 of the Act pending at the commencement of the year was 23. During the year 131 new deposits were received for apportionment under section 8(5). Of these 154 proceedings, 21 were transferred to Commissioners of other provinces for disposal under section 21(2) and compensation was apportioned in 116 cases, 17 remaining pending at the end of the year. No application for commutation under section 7 or review under section 6 was filed during the year, nor was any application for recovery of compensation under section 31 received. Four applications for indemnity were filed by employers as principals during the year—two being dismissed after contest, one withdrawn and one allowed after contest. Compensation at the maximum wage rate was deposited in only one case of death as against one in 1931 and 3 in 1930.

501. The year opened with a balance of Rs. 37,302 and the total amount deposited during the year was Rs. 1,43,829. Payments to parties and awards in distribution proceedings accounted for Rs. 1,52,840 and the balance at the close of the year was Rs. 28,291. Finance.

Indian Companies Act, 1913, and Allied Acts.

[Annual Report of the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies, Bengal, on the working of the Indian Companies Act and certain other allied Acts for 1933-34.]

502. The number of companies in operation limited by shares at the close of the year was 4,680 with a total authorised capital of Rs. 4,14,48,16,679 and a paid up capital of Rs. 1,33,19,54,676 as compared with 4,519 companies with an authorised capital of Rs. 3,99,92,68,429 and a paid up capital of Rs. 1,28,41,18,628 existing on the 31st March 1933. Three hundred and thirteen new companies and societies or 35 more than in the previous year were registered during the year. Of the new companies and societies, 269 were limited by shares and 6 by guarantee. Thirty-eight societies with social, philanthropic and charitable objects were incorporated under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, against 20 in the previous year. One company limited by guarantee possessing no share capital ceased to work during the year. Eight hundred and forty-three companies increased while 44 companies reduced their capital compared with 585 and 20, respectively in 1932-33. One hundred and five companies ceased to work, went into liquidation, were finally dissolved or otherwise became defunct against 57 in the previous year. Ninety-one companies went into liquidation during the year, but were not finally dissolved. Changes were registered in the name of seven companies during the year. Four hundred and sixteen proceedings were instituted during the year and 93 were pending from the previous year. Of these, 233 ended in conviction, 117 in acquittal, 20 were withdrawn, 37 were filed and 102 remained pending at the close of the year. The net receipts of the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies from all sources amounted to Rs. 91,025-5 as compared with Rs. 86,561-12 in 1932-33. Statistics.

Provident Insurance Societies Act, 1912 (V of 1912).

503. One hundred and twenty-one new provident insurance societies were registered under this Act during 1933-34, of which 62 were also registered under the Indian Companies Act. Four provident insurance societies went into liquidation and one was

converted into a life assurance company. The total number of such societies increased to 372 at the end of the year. The rapid increase in the number of provident insurance societies is in marked contrast to the growth and development of other enterprises during recent years. But a large percentage of these societies are carrying on "dividing business" which has been condemned by experts as unsound.

Trade.

Foreign Sea-borne Trade.

[Report on the Maritime Trade of Bengal for the year 1933-34.]

General position.

504. The adverse effects of the economic depression on the trade of Bengal noticed during the past few years continued during the year under report. The aggregate value of the sea-borne trade, excluding treasure, during 1933-34 was Rs. 1,20·40 crores, as against Rs. 1,22·99 crores during the previous year. The value of the foreign sea-borne trade during the year was Rs. 97·41 crores and coasting trade Rs. 22·99 crores. The corresponding figures for 1932-33 were 92·27 crores and Rs. 30·72 crores respectively. Foreign imports during the year were valued at Rs. 33·28 crores and foreign exports at Rs. 64·12 crores, against Rs. 35·83 crores and Rs. 56·43 crores, respectively, during 1932-33. The figures of coasting trade were, imports Rs. 14·15 crores and exports Rs. 8·83 crores, as against Rs. 18·90 crores and Rs. 11·82 crores, respectively, in 1932-33. The quantity of goods handled at the port of Calcutta shows a slight improvement. The British Empire's share of the trade improved slightly both in imports and exports and accounted for about 51 per cent. of the total trade against 48 per cent. in 1932-33. America's share of the trade also shows slight improvement but the trade with all other countries declined.

Exchange.

505. The year opened with exchange steady at 1*s* 6 1/32*d*. but on the 21st April it dropped to 1*s*. 6*d*. and further to 1*s*. 5 31/32*d*. on the 24th idem, but it became steadier and firmed up to 1*s*. 6 1/32*d*. on the 27th idem following the appearance of trade bills as well some bills in connection with the exports of gold. On the 13th May exchange rose to 1*s*. 6 1/16*d*., but, towards the end of the month, it became somewhat quieter at 1/32*d*. as gold exports shrank once again. This rate of 1/32*d*. continued steady till about the 9th of September but fell to 1*s*. 6*d*. on the 11th and further to 1*s*. 5 31/32*d*. on the 14th owing to a rumour having gained currency that the Government of India were contemplating

a change in the ratio from 1*s.* 6*d.* to 1*s.* 4*d.* coinciding with the introduction of the Reserve Bank Bill in the Assembly. Some speculative purchases were made for forward deliveries and as the cover through export of gold was deficient, the quotations weakened, ready Telegraphic Transfers being quoted 1*s.* 5 31/32*d.* in the second week of September. The stock of gold also happened to be held up in the same expectation, but following the statements in the Assembly and the Council of State by Government members in the third week of September that no change in the ratio was in contemplation, the market steadied up again and Government were able to purchase a fair amount of sterling. The weakness of exchange from the middle of October to the end of the first week of December coincided with the discussions on the Reserve Bank Bill in the Legislative Assembly and was kept up by a widespread propaganda carried out by the Currency League in favour of the devaluation of the rupee. From the 13th of December the rate rose up again to 1*s.* 6 1/32*d.* and from the 22nd January to the end of the year the rate remained very firm at 1/16*d.* and the Government of India were able to effect considerable remittances to the Home Treasury. As in the previous year, the mainstay of the rupee sterling exchange was the substantial export of gold.

Import trade of Calcutta.

506. The following table shows the relative importance of the principal articles of trade imported at the port of Calcutta from foreign countries:—

	1932-33.	1933-34.	Percentage.
	Rs.	Rs.	
Machinery and millwork ..	3,81,02,099	4,95,68,699	15·43
Cotton goods	7,12,54,859	4,86,17,862	15·13
Metals and ores	3,04,00,917	3,21,35,302	10·00
Oils	2,46,48,170	2,34,74,146	7·31
Instruments, apparatus and appliances	1,38,85,396	1,41,43,450	4·40
Chemicals	1,05,02,013	1,08,37,899	3·37
Hardware	95,74,244	91,26,049	2·84
Paper and pasteboard	80,83,525	81,38,894	2·53
Motor vehicles	54,80,116	70,32,156	2·19
Provisions and oilman's stores ..	70,18,179	69,48,454	2·16
Drugs and medicines	62,11,315	68,49,534	2·13
Spices	66,13,561	63,58,356	1·98
Postal articles not specified ..	65,62,713	60,86,588	1·89
Liquors including methylated and perfumed spirits	63,71,768	60,42,137	1·88
Woollen goods	46,75,167	46,32,580	1·44
Rubber	40,21,556	41,54,832	1·29
Salt	54,91,695	37,23,468	1·16
Glass and glassware	38,04,880	35,72,756	1·11

	1932-33.	1933-34.	Percentage.
	Rs.	Rs.	
Tea-chests	28,33,074	33,32,378	1·04
Sugar	1,22,36,630	30,71,720	·95
Tobacco	44,36,854	29,57,416	·92
Paints and painters' materials ..	31,07,477	29,20,354	·91
Cycles	26,59,225	28,55,144	·89
Boots and shoes	26,70,296	27,64,312	·86
Artificial silk	39,57,657	26,33,665	·82
Railway carriages and wagons ..	15,43,790	25,36,381	·79
Paper-making materials (wood pulp)	19,76,423	24,06,673	·75
Dyeing and tanning substances ..	25,00,029	23,28,392	·73
Toys and requisites for games ..	16,54,889	21,11,248	·66
Stationery (excluding paper) ..	23,07,468	20,79,418	·65
Books, printed and printed matter ..	17,73,280	18,84,585	·59
Wool, raw	18,08,829	16,89,455	·53
Manures	11,36,234	16,89,180	·53
Toilet requisites	17,99,293	16,51,806	·51
Building and engineering materials	19,90,750	16,18,771	·50
Apparel	14,64,871	15,25,831	·48
Silk goods	25,04,177	15,17,146	·47
Belting for machinery	16,01,568	14,90,481	·46
Wood and timber	14,86,516	14,38,096	·45
Leather	12,43,934	13,40,701	·42
Umbrellas and fittings	12,78,502	12,74,290	·40
Precious stones	19,60,946	12,72,846	·40
Soap	13,36,342	12,55,961	·39
Haberdashery and millinery ..	10,65,155	9,41,445	·29
Grain, pulse and flour	24,07,396	6,45,709	·20
Jewellery	29,16,125	1,16,433	·04
Other articles	1,47,44,707	1,64,90,298	5·13
Total ..	34,71,04,610	32,12,83,267	100·00

Liquors.

507. The import of foreign liquors declined further during the year under report; the figures for the year were 1,160,252 gallons valued at Rs. 60·42 lakhs against 1,509,718 gallons valued at Rs. 63·72 lakhs in 1932-33. The import of denatured spirit declined considerably. There was slight improvement in the import of potable liquors but beer records a decline in trade.

Sugar.

508. As a result of the high tariff, the import of foreign sugar has fallen considerably. The total quantity of foreign sugar imported during the year was 29,930 tons, valued at Rs. 30,71,720, whereas only three years ago the imports were 411,169 tons.

509. The total quantity of salt imported at Calcutta during 1933-34 was considerably less than the quantity imported in 1932-33; viz., 422,392 tons valued at Rs. 1,04·47 lakhs against 528,802 tons valued Rs. 1,21·53 lakhs in 1932-33. The decline was shared by both foreign and Indian salt. Imports from Italian East Africa and the United Kingdom showed a remarkable decline and there were no importations at all from Egypt and Spain. There was a slight increase in the consumption of salt during the year, the Aden, Indian and Hamburg varieties being mostly in demand. Prices fell still lower. Clearances *ex*-ship increased at the expense of *ex*-golah, but in the last month of the year there was a heavy rush on the gola stocks, due to bonders anticipating a rise in duty. The quantity in bond at the close of the year was 32,686 tons, a decrease of 94,346 tons as compared with last year. Salt.

510. The import of tobacco fell from 3,384,202 lb. valued at Rs. 44·37 lakhs in 1932-33 to 2,696,790 lb. valued at Rs. 29·57 lakhs. The decline was shared both by the manufactured and unmanufactured varieties. Tobacco.

511. The total quantity of mineral oils of all descriptions imported during the year from various sources was 89,478,036 gallons valued at Rs. 3,86·48 lakhs, as against 104,693,789 gallons valued at Rs. 5,62·05 lakhs in 1932-33. This decline in the trade is solely attributable to decreased imports from Burma which receded from 65,170,790 gallons valued at Rs. 3,80·87 lakhs in 1932-33 to 45,782,271 gallons valued at Rs. 2,00·65 lakhs during the year under report. The various descriptions of mineral oils imported during the year were, kerosine oil from foreign countries 19,689,780 gallons valued at Rs. 84·51 lakhs and from Burma 34,747,104 gallons valued at Rs. 1,40·88 lakhs; lubricating and batching oils from foreign countries 11,780,900 gallons valued at Rs. 67·68 lakhs and from Burma 1,183,651 gallons valued at Rs. 8·90 lakhs; petrol, benzine and benzol from Burma 5,711,724 gallons valued at Rs. 32·24 lakhs; and miscellaneous other kinds from foreign countries 12,225,085 gallons valued at Rs. 33·64 lakhs and from Burma 4,139,792 gallons valued at Rs. 18·63 lakhs. A new feature noticed during the year is the advance of Java and Roumania as large suppliers of kerosine oil at the expense of Russia and the United States of America. Imports of petrol from foreign sources were negligible. Mineral oils.

512. Compared with the figures for 1932-33, there was a substantial increase in the import of motor vehicles during the year under report. The figures for the year are, motor cars and taxi cabs 2,354; motor cycles and scooters 195; and motor omnibuses, Motor vehicles.

vans and lorries 440. The corresponding figures for the preceding year were respectively 1,618, 202 and 187. Of the total number of motor cars imported, the United Kingdom supplied 1,560, Canada 452 and the United States 263. Motor cycles came mainly from the United Kingdom. Motor buses, vans and lorries were imported as follows:—95 from the United Kingdom, 196 from Canada and 148 from the United States. Tyres and tubes increased in quantity but decreased in value. Supplies from the United Kingdom increased considerably.

Drugs, medicines and chemicals.

513. The total value of drugs, medicine and chemicals imported during the year was Rs. 1,76·87 lakhs which is the highest figure since 1929-30 when the value of the trade was Rs. 1,93·02 lakhs. In spite of this increase in the total, proprietary and patent medicines, ammonia and salts thereof, bleaching materials, carbide of calcium and disinfectants record a setback in the trade.

Glassware and earthenware.

514. The total value of glassware imported during the year under report amounted to Rs. 35·73 lakhs, against Rs. 38·04 lakhs in 1932-33. The decline is attributable to smaller import of glass bangles, bottles, phials, funnels, globes and glass parts of lamps. Other varieties of glassware show an improvement over the preceding year's figures. The total value of earthenwares imported during the year was Rs. 8·72 lakhs, which is Rs. ·51 lakhs below the preceding year's figure. Japan maintained her position as the principal supplier of earthenware and glassware of all descriptions.

Machinery and millwork.

515. The total value of machinery and mill work imported during the year was Rs. 4,95·69 lakhs, against Rs. 3,81·02 lakhs, in 1932-33. Of this total value, sugar machinery was responsible for Rs. 213·95 lakhs against Rs. 131·53 in 1932-33, Rs. 27·68 lakhs in 1931-32, Rs. 12·45 lakhs in 1930-31 and Rs. 5·44 lakhs in 1929-30. The next in order of value were, boilers Rs. 33·57 lakhs; primemovers (other than electrical) Rs. 31·07 lakhs; and jute machinery Rs. 31·90 lakhs. The United Kingdom alone supplied machinery worth Rs. 3,54·24 lakhs. Germany comes next with Rs. 46·53 lakhs. The supplies from other countries were all below Rs. 30 lakhs.

Metals and metal manufactures.

516. The importation of iron and steel shows an improvement from 102,291 tons valued at Rs. 1,61·95 lakhs in 1932-33 to 105,968 tons valued at Rs. 1,79·75 lakhs. The figures for the protected varieties were 56,896 tons valued at Rs. 94·72 lakhs and non-protected varieties 49,072 tons valued at Rs. 85·03 lakhs. The corresponding figures for the preceding year were protected 55,295 tons valued at Rs. 86·82 lakhs and non-protected 46,996 tons valued at Rs. 75·13 lakhs. The figures for metals and ores other than iron

and steel imported during the year were 508,283 cwt. valued at Rs. 1,41·60 lakhs against 530,687 cwt. valued at Rs. 1,42·06 lakhs in the preceding year. The United Kingdom continued to have the largest share of the iron and steel trade, which increased during the year under review by about 16 per cent. The trade with Belgium, Germany and the United States of America decreased. In the trade in metals other than iron and steel, the United Kingdom maintained her leading position as supplier of aluminimum, anti-friction metal and brass. Considerable quantities of unwrought copper were imported from the United States of America and Portuguese East Africa.

Paper, pasteboard and woodpulp.

517. The import trade in paper records an improvement from 601,943 cwt. valued at Rs. 68·36 lakhs in 1932-33 to 613,782 cwt. valued at Rs. 70·38 lakhs. Larger import of the protected qualities of paper is responsible for this improvement in the trade in spite of a slight decline under non-protected qualities. Packing paper dropped from 95,382 cwt. to 84,670 cwt. but printing paper, writing paper and envelopes show an improvement. As usual Sweden continued to be the chief supplier of packing paper with 42,697 cwt. valued at Rs. 5·53 lakhs. The United Kingdom supplied 4,166 cwt. of packing paper, mainly expensive qualities, valued at Rs. 1·03 lakhs. The total import of printing paper was 219,817 cwt. valued at Rs. 25·63 lakhs, of which Norway alone supplied 110,144 cwt., mostly mechanical newsprint, valued at Rs. 10·90 lakhs. Austria was the next best supplier of printing paper with 22,915 cwt. valued at Rs. 2·55 lakhs. The United Kingdom was the chief supplier of wood-free printing paper. The quantity of writing paper and envelopes imported during the year was 22,887 cwt. valued at Rs. 6·63 lakhs. The United Kingdom maintained her premier position as supplier of writing paper with 8,468 cwt. valued at Rs. 4·12 lakhs. Norway was the next biggest supplier of this material with 8,055 cwt. valued at Rs. 1·29 lakhs. Paper manufactures, pasteboard, millboard and cardboard of British origin were allowed preference during the year under report. As a result, Britain's trade in these articles registered a distinct improvement over the last year's figures. The total quantity of paper manufactures imported during the year was 19,404 cwt. valued at Rs. 6·42 lakhs and the quantity of pasteboard, etc., was 118,420 cwt. valued at Rs. 11·01 lakhs. The value of paper manufactures from the United Kingdom amounted to Rs. 3·99 lakhs and of pasteboards, etc., Rs. 3·90 lakhs against Rs. 2·39 lakhs and Rs. 2·54 lakhs, respectively, in 1932-33. Japan supplied 43,518 cwt., mostly strawboards, valued at Rs. 2·32 lakhs. The import of wood pulp shows an increase of 82,512 cwt. valued at Rs. 4·30 lakhs over the figures

for the preceding year, viz., 283,181 cwt. valued at Rs. 19·75 lakhs. Scandinavian countries and the United States of America were the chief suppliers of wood pulp.

Cotton goods.

518. The import of cotton goods record a heavy fall during the year under report. The total value of the trade during the year was Rs. 4,86·17 lakhs against Rs. 7,12·55 lakhs in 1932-33 and Rs. 23,13·89 lakhs in 1929-30. The value of the different varieties of cotton goods were, twist and yarn, Rs. 1,04·49 lakhs; piece-goods Rs. 3,19·22 lakhs and miscellaneous other varieties Rs. 62·46 lakhs. The corresponding figures for 1932-33 were, Rs. 1,10·63 lakhs, Rs. 5,44·68 lakhs and Rs. 57·24 lakhs, respectively. In quantity also there was an all-round deterioration of the trade. The figures for the different varieties were, twist and yarn 15,351,012 lb. and piecegoods 204,904,098 lb. against 16,018,061 lb. and 351,191,868 lb., respectively, in 1932-33.

Silk and artificial silk piecegoods.

519. Like cotton goods, silk and artificial silk piecegoods also record a heavy decline in trade. The total quantity of silk and artificial silk piecegoods imported during the year receded from 18,933,873 yards valued at Rs. 50·05 lakhs in 1932-33 to 8,859,615 yards valued at Rs. 26·53 lakhs. This deterioration of the total trade is reflected on every variety of silk and silk goods and every country of supply had to share the effects.

Woollen goods.

520. The total value of woollen goods imported during the year under review receded from Rs. 46·75 lakhs in 1932-33 to Rs. 46·33 lakhs. Woollen piecegoods, shawls and braids record a fall both in quantity and value. Hosiery shows a decline in quantity from 118,845 lb. in 1932-33 to 105,667 lb., but the value rose from Rs. 2·40 lakhs to Rs. 3·55 lakhs. Yarn and knitting wool on the other hand improved in quantity from 229,940 lb. to 294·676 lb. but the value declined from Rs. 4·74 lakhs to Rs. 3·95 lakhs. Carpets, rugs and blankets improved both in value and quantity, viz., from 1,719,306 lb. valued at Rs. 12·49 lakhs in 1932-33 to 2,092,827 lb. valued at Rs. 15·50 lakhs. A feature of the year's woollen goods trade was the increase in imports from Japan which sent much larger supplies of hosiery and piecegoods, the former valued at Rs. 2·55 lakhs and the latter Rs. 3·41 lakhs, as against Rs. 1·30 lakhs and Rs. 0·70 lakh, respectively, in the previous year.

Other articles.

521. As in the case of the more important articles already dealt with in detail, most of the other articles recorded a slight decline. Exceptions were, lac which rose from Rs. ·56 lakhs to Rs. 11·23 lakhs in consequence of a recovery of the trade from the Straits Settlements and live animals, mainly horses from Australia,

the importation of which in the year under review increased by Rs. 11·37 lakhs. Railway carriages, toys and requisites for games; manures; rubber; tea chests and instruments, etc., record slight increases. The trade in umbrella and umbrella fittings remained almost steady, Japan improving her share at the expense of Germany. Imports of arms and ammunitions and cutlery also remained steady. On the other hand there were heavy falls in the imports of jewellery; grain, pulse and flour for which wheat from Australia was responsible; and non-mineral oils which dropped from Rs. 65·30 lakhs to Rs. 48·91 lakhs due to lesser imports of coconut oil from Ceylon. Smaller decreases occurred in precious stones, hardware, building and engineering materials, spices and stationery. The value of unspecified articles imported by post fell from Rs. 65·63 lakhs to Rs. 60·86 lakhs.

Import trade of Chittagong.

522. Chittagong is the only other port in Bengal open to foreign trade. Its foreign imports have steadily declined since 1927-28 when the total value of imports was Rs. 2,81·65 lakhs. The value for this port's trade during the year under review was Rs. 70·12 lakhs against Rs. 72·46 lakhs in 1932-33. Machinery, metals, salt, chemicals, hardware and cotton goods show a deterioration of trade; while tea-chests, building and engineering materials, instruments and certain other articles of minor importance to the port recorded slight improvement. The decreased import of salt was almost entirely due to reduced imports from Aden.

Export trade of Calcutta.

523. The following table shows the relative importance of the principal articles exported from Calcutta:—

	1932-33.	1933-34.	Percentage.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Jute manufactures	21,65,41,014	21,33,27,890	36·71
Tea	9,42,16,617	11,59,95,701	19·96
Jute, raw	9,34,70,318	10,16,58,327	17·49
Hides and skins, raw ..	1,86,65,397	2,80,40,363	4·83
Lac	1,23,80,809	2,45,40,075	4·22
Seeds	59,82,124	2,11,52,203	3·64
Metals and ores	1,59,03,812	1,58,60,494	2·73
Grain, pulse and flour ..	1,62,27,122	1,17,76,878	2·03
Opium	11,24,000	72,64,000	1·25
Woollen manufactures ..	46,47,629	54,22,459	·93
Cotton, raw	21,83,384	40,68,411	·70

	1932-33. Rs.	1933-34. Rs.	Percentage. Rs.
Coal and coke	44,04,571	37,25,799	·64
Mica	26,03,465	35,58,862	·61
Dyeing and tanning substances	29,57,068	24,64,229	·42
Oilcakes	44,09,954	24,15,728	·42
Hemp, raw	22,69,257	24,07,363	·41
Leather	12,39,293	19,79,128	·34
Bones	15,93,632	15,58,253	·27
Postal articles	18,80,484	13,86,077	·24
Spices	15,93,591	13,38,910	·23
Provisions and oilman's stores ..	14,78,611	12,32,245	·21
Manures	7,03,294	10,75,940	·19
Saltpetre	8,58,848	10,11,710	·17
Paraffin wax	35,49,777	9,58,885	·17
Apparel	7,01,820	9,02,114	·16
Tobacco	6,62,436	6,32,079	·11
Oils	5,98,263	5,77,479	·10
Instruments, apparatus and appliances.	4,48,728	4,26,634	·07
Kapok	4,63,790	4,13,771	·07
Drugs and medicines ..	14,54,261	3,41,830	·06
Cordage and rope	3,65,829	3,29,652	·05
Paints and painter's materials	4,68,322	1,76,683	·03
Other articles	31,90,055	31,30,235	·54
Total ..	51,92,37,575	58,11,50,416	100·00

Grain, pulse and flour.

524. The total quantity of grain, pulse and flour exported during the year amounted to 131,800 tons valued at Rs. 1,17·77 lakhs, against 150,323 tons valued at Rs. 1,62·27 lakhs in 1932-33. The fall in the trade is noticeable in each article of export under this head. Rice fell from 120,794 tons valued at Rs. 1,31·18 lakhs in 1932-33 to 107,657 tons valued at Rs. 94·88 lakhs. The drop in the other articles compared to the figures for 1932-33 were, cereals other than rice 681 tons valued at Rs. ·60 lakh against

2,915 tons valued at Rs. 1·94 lakhs; pulses 22,814 tons valued at Rs. 21·65 against 25,664 tons valued at Rs. 27·83 lakhs; and wheat flour 648 tons valued at Rs. ·64 lakh against 950 tons valued at Rs. 1·32 lakhs. The average shipment price per ton of husked rice, wheat and wheat flour fell from Rs. 108, Rs. 126 and Rs. 139 in the previous year to Rs. 88, Rs. 106 and Rs. 98, respectively.

Tea.

525. The Indian overseas export allotment for the financial year 1933-34 under the Tea Control Act of 1933 was fixed at 320,570,560 lb. The total quantity exported to foreign countries during the year was 270,822,026 lb. Under the provisions of the Act, the balance of this quota could be exported by 30th June 1934 and accounted for against 1933-34. The total value of the foreign exports of tea rose from Rs. 12,53·26 lakhs in 1932-33 to Rs. 15,83·84 lakhs, although the total quantity fell by 53,002,680 lb. The shipment price averaged 9 annas 5 pies against 6 annas 9 pies in 1932-33 and 7 annas 10 pies in 1931-32. Tea cess was raised from 6 annas to 8 annas per 100 lb. with effect from the 16th September 1933. The United Kingdom, Canada and United States of America were the principal customers of tea.

Coal.

526. The export of coal was the lowest since 1929-30. The shipment during the year under report was 372,598 tons valued at Rs. 37·10 lakhs, against 451,564 tons valued at Rs. 43,68 lakhs during 1932-33. Every country reduced its purchase of coal except Ceylon whose share of the trade rose from 200,389 tons valued at Rs. 23·64 lakhs in 1932-33 to 252,887 tons valued at Rs. 29·01 lakhs.

Lac.

527. After a steady decline in trade since 1928-29, the export of lac rose during the year under report to 727,247 cwt. valued at Rs. 2,45·40 lakhs. The corresponding figures for 1932-33 were 415,588 cwt. valued Rs. 1,23·81 lakhs. Except Australia and Belgium who reduced their purchases, the exports to every other country increased. The increase is specially noticeable in the case of the United Kingdom whose purchases rose from 93,213 cwt. valued at Rs. 29·49 lakhs in 1932-33 to 321,730 cwt. valued at Rs. 127·66 lakhs.

Hides and skins.

528. During the year under review, 23,174 tons of hides and skins were exported and the value received amounted to Rs. 2,92·47 lakhs. The corresponding figures for the preceding year were 15,417 tons and Rs. 1,96·95 lakhs only. The figures for the different kinds of goods exported under this head were, raw hides 12,205 tons valued at Rs. 68·93 lakhs; raw skins 9,998 tons valued

at Rs. 2,11·18 lakhs; cuttings of raw hides and skins 829 tons valued at Rs. ·29 lakh; and dressed hides and skins 142 tons valued at Rs. 12·07 lakhs. Greece, Turkey, Spain and Bulgaria slightly reduced their purchases of raw hides but the shipments to all other countries increased. Germany and Italy maintained their position as the largest purchasers of raw hides. The shipment of raw skins improved in respect of every country except France, Germany, Australia and Belgium who reduced their purchases.

Metals and ores.

529. The export of metals and ores during the year improved from 483,094 tons in 1932-33 to 644,254 tons but the value received was Rs. ·44 lakh less, viz., Rs. 1,58·60 lakhs. Manganese ore and pig iron are the chief articles of export under this head. The figures for these articles are, manganese ore 134,643 tons valued at Rs. 24·80 lakhs, and pig iron 377,511 tons valued at Rs. 85,02 lakhs. The corresponding figures for 1932-33 were, manganese ore 137,224 tons valued at Rs. 37·29 lakhs and pig iron 218,374 tons valued at Rs. 74·30 lakhs. The United Kingdom and Japan increased their purchase of manganese ore from 37,402 tons and 30,598 tons to 79,950 tons and 43,750 tons, respectively, but shipments to France and Belguim, usually two of the biggest purchasers of this ore, receded from 36,021 tons and 29,952 tons to 2,404 tons and 6,803 tons, respectively. Japan took 183,832 tons of pig iron against 71,371 tons in the preceding year.

Mica.

530. The total quantity of mica exported during the year under review amounted to 55,697 cwt. valued at Rs. 35·59 lakhs, as against 34,354 cwt. valued at Rs. 26·03 lakhs in the preceding year. Of this, block mica accounted for 12,123 cwt. valued at Rs. 19·11 lakhs and mica splittings 43,574 cwt. valued at Rs. 16·48 lakhs. Shipments to every country except Japan record an increase. The United Kingdom's share of the trade rose from 13,131 cwt. in 1932-33 to 15,657 cwt. but she had to yield her position as the principal customer of Bengal mica to the United States of America whose purchases rose from 7,881 cwt. to 26,529 cwt. Prices, however, failed to keep pace with the increase in the volume of the trade.

Oilseeds, vegetable oils and oilcakes.

531. The total value of oilseeds, vegetable oils and oilcakes exported during the year was Rs. 2,39·36 lakhs, against Rs. 1,07·80 lakhs during the preceding year. The figures for the oilseeds trade were, linseed 188,627 tons valued at Rs. 2,08·14 lakhs; castor seed 1,124 tons valued at Rs. 1·13 lakhs; and other seeds 151 tons valued at Rs. ·21 lakhs. The corresponding figures for 1932-33 were linseed, 47,159 tons valued at Rs. 52·24 lakhs; castor

seed 3,347 tons valued at Rs. 4·52 lakhs; and other seeds 236 tons valued at Rs. ·38 lakhs. There has been a striking improvement in the export of linseed to the United Kingdom. This is attributable largely to the Imperial Preference granted by the United Kingdom as a result of the Ottawa Agreement. The quantity of vegetable oils exported during the year was, mustard and rape 246,894 gallons valued at Rs. 2,86 lakhs against 193,328 gallons valued at Rs. 2·99 lakhs in 1932-33; castor oil 148,203 gallons valued at Rs. 1·69 lakhs against 145,075 gallons valued at Rs. 2·18 lakhs; linseed 64,942 gallons valued at Rs. 1·06 lakhs against 42,897 gallons valued at Rs. ·68 lakhs; and other varieties 3,889 gallons valued at Rs. ·10 lakhs against 1,532 gallons valued at Rs. ·06 lakhs. Oilcakes exported during the year amounted to 48,990 tons valued at Rs. 24·16 lakhs against 66,288 tons valued at Rs. 44·10 lakhs in 1932-33.

Cotton.

532. Shipment of cotton from Calcutta is negligible. Bombay and Kathiwar ports account for nearly nine-tenths of the shipments from India. The quantity of raw cotton exported from Calcutta during 1933-34 was 8,548 tons valued at Rs. 40·68 lakhs against 3,749 tons valued at Rs. 21·83 lakhs in the preceding year. The United States and Japan were the principal purchasers of cotton, their shares of purchase being 3,011 tons and 3,038 tons, respectively. Next in order was Germany with 628 tons. The purchases from other countries were all below 500 tons.

Hemp.

533. Export of raw hemp imporved all round but there was a reduction in prices averaging from Rs. 11-4 to Rs. 8-1 per cwt. The figures for the year are 297,638 cwt. valued at Rs. 24·07 lakhs against 201,650 cwt. valued at Rs. 22·69 lakhs in 1932-33.

Jute and jute manufactures.

534. The total export of jute and jute manufactures during the year under review amounted to 1,372,987 tons valued at Rs. 31,49·86 lakhs against 1,220,984 tons valued at Rs. 31,000·11 lakhs during the preceding year. The shipment of raw jute increased from 542,462 tons valued at Rs. 9,34·70 lakhs in 1932-33 to 701,842 tons valued at Rs. 10,16·58 lakhs. The increase was shared by every purchasing country except Spain whose purchases came down from 42,311 tons in 1932-33 to 35,625 tons during the year. The average shipment price of raw jute per bale declined from Rs. 30-12-4 to Rs. 25-13-10. The slight increase noticed in the last year's figures of gunny bags was not maintained. The figures for the year were 380,618 tons valued at Rs. 9,70·72 lakhs as against 397,504 tons valued at Rs. 11,13·27 lakhs in 1932-33. Hessian bags however had a better demand, the figures for which rose from 88,868,311 pieces valued at Rs. 1,63·13 lakhs in 1932-33

to 93,292,982 pieces valued at Rs. 1,69·03 lakhs. The export of gunny cloth improved both as regards value and quantity. The total shipment of the year amounted to 280,056 tons valued at Rs. 11,36·13, against 269,315 tons valued at Rs. 10,21·13 lakhs during the preceding year. The average prices of hessian cloth were higher than those of the preceding year. The opening and closing quotations for standard bags and cloths during the year were:—Cuban sugar bags Rs. 27-4 and Rs. 28-12; B twills Rs. 22-8 and Rs. 24-0; hessian 8 oz., cloth Rs. 8-6 and Rs. 9-9 and 10½ oz. cloth Rs. 10-12 and Rs. 12-7. The net collection of jute cess for the Calcutta Improvement Trust amounted to Rs. 10·15 lakhs compared with Rs. 9·29 lakhs in the previous year.

Dyeing and tanning substances.

535. The export of dyeing and tanning substances during the year improved from 499,190 cwt. in 1932-33 to 541,466 cwt. but the value dropped from Rs. 29·57 lakhs to Rs. 24·64 lakhs. The United Kingdom maintained her position as the principal purchaser of myrobalans but her purchases during the year receded from 194,635 cwt. valued at Rs. 11·25 lakhs in 1932-33 to 158,917 cwt. valued at Rs. 6·94 lakhs.

Other articles.

536. The more important items have been dealt with separately. Of the other items, opium recorded a large increase from Rs. 11·24 lakhs to Rs. 72·64 lakhs which was principally due to shipments to Siam having been as much as Rs. 48·64 lakhs against no shipment in 1932-33. Exports of paraffin wax fell by Rs. 25·91 lakhs owing to diminished demand from Portuguese East Africa. Shipments of woollen manufactures, consisting chiefly of carpets and rugs rose from Rs. 46·48 lakhs to Rs. 54·22 lakhs, the United Kingdom being by far the largest buyer, her purchases amounting to Rs. 51·92 lakhs. There was also a better demand from the United Kingdom for Indian leather. Exports of purchuck (principally to Hongkong) declined heavily. Exports of provisions and oilman's stores fell by Rs. 2·47 lakhs mainly due to smaller shipments of *ghee* to the Straits Settlements. Smaller exports of chillies to Ceylon accounted for the drop in the exports of spices while exports of manures, salpetre and apparel increased. The value of the articles exported by post fell from Rs. 18·80 lakhs to Rs. 13·86 lakhs. Re-exports of raw wool advanced from Rs. 3·67 lakhs to Rs. 10·25 lakhs.

Foreign exports from Chittagong.

537. The total value of the foreign exports from Chittagong during the year under report was Rs. 5,23·26 lakhs, against Rs. 3,80·75 lakhs during the preceding year. The improvement is due to larger exports of tea, raw jute and raw cotton.

538. The following table shows the distribution of the trade of Calcutta with the principal foreign countries:—

	Imports.				Exports.				Percentage of total trade.	
	1932-33.		1933-34.		1932-33.		1933-34.			
	Value in lakhs of rupees.	Percentage.	Value in lakhs of rupees.	Percentage.	Value in lakhs of rupees.	Percentage.	Value in lakhs of rupees.	Percentage.	1932-33.	1933-34.
United Kingdom ..	1,423·31	41·01	1,493·07	46·47	1,399·05	26·77	1,868·28	31·96	32·46	37·11
British Possessions ..	284·92	8·20	288·63	8·99	1,081·55	20·71	954·00	16·32	15·71	13·71
Germany	248·15	6·78	224·93	7·00	289·10	5·54	324·45	5·55	6·18	6·07
Belgium	98·47	1·62	80·42	2·50	122·60	2·34	141·00	2·41	2·54	2·44
France	28·88	1·06	24·41	·76	181·87	3·48	178·00	3·05	2·42	2·24
Italy	90·75	2·39	73·40	2·29	88·16	1·69	125·59	2·15	2·06	2·20
Japan	578·63	12·20	432·06	13·45	144·86	2·77	150·88	2·58	8·27	6·43
Java	135·62	5·51	53·28	1·66	48·64	·93	38·33	·66	2·12	1·01
United States ..	257·70	10·17	208·90	6·50	797·99	15·28	1,019·79	17·44	12·14	13·56
South America ..	·08	·00	·04	·00	356·29	6·81	323·24	5·53	4·10	3·57
Other countries ..	324·50	11·06	333·69	10·38	714·61	13·68	722·44	12·35	12·00	11·66
Total ..	3,471·01	100·00	3,212·83	100·00	5,224·72	100·00	5,846·00	100·00	100·00	100·00

Distribution of the foreign trade of Calcutta.

Coasting Trade.

General position.

539. The total value of the trade of Calcutta with other Indian Ports (British as well as non-British) declined from Rs. 27,85·22 lakhs in 1932-33 to Rs. 19,62·05 lakhs during the year under review. The value of the imports and exports of the year was Rs. 11,81·38 lakhs and Rs. 7,80·67 lakhs, respectively. The corresponding figures for 1932-33 were, imports Rs. 17,27·62 lakhs and exports Rs. 10,57·60 lakhs.

Imports.

540. The value of the imports from the different provinces were, Bombay Rs. 2,91·76 lakhs against Rs. 6,23·89 in the preceding year; Sindh Rs. 69·20 lakhs against Rs. 1,10·05 lakhs; Madras Rs. 2,06·27 lakhs against Rs. 2,46·20 lakhs; Burma Rs. 5,40·77 lakhs against Rs. 6,59·88 lakhs, and Bihar and Orissa Rs. 3·23 lakhs against Rs. 5·06 lakhs. The imports from other Bengal ports were Rs. 5·36 lakhs against Rs. 13·26 lakhs and non-British Indian ports Rs. 64·79 lakhs against Rs. 69·28 lakhs. The heavy decline in the trade with Bombay was due to decreased arrivals of grey cotton piecegoods and cotton twist and yarn. Smaller imports of wheat account for the decrease from Sindh.

Exports.

541. The figures of exports to the different provinces are Bombay Rs. 1,27·05 lakhs against Rs. 2,05·57 lakhs in 1932-33; Sindh Rs. 56·73 lakhs against Rs. 70·75 lakhs; Madras Rs. 1,22·54 lakhs against Rs. 2,06·35 lakhs, Burma Rs. 4,18·94 lakhs against Rs. 514·80 lakhs; and Bihar and Orissa Rs. 7·39 lakhs against Rs. 10·11 lakhs. The figures for other Bengal ports are Rs. 10·31 lakhs against Rs. 13·19 lakhs and non-British ports Rs. 37·71 lakhs against Rs. 36·83 lakhs. The decreases in exports to Bombay occurred under tea, gunny bags, gunny cloth and coal. Madras took less coal and less rice. Exports of gunny bags to Burma showed an increase of Rs. 24 lakhs, but there was decrease under almost all other items of export, the principal among them being coal, tobacco, betelnut and pulses.

Calcutta Port Trust.

Port and port approaches.

542. Conditions in the Port approaches were on the whole more favourable than during the previous year. The Middleton Bar was the governing bar for the determination of drafts for 345 days during the year as against 355 days in the previous year. The Eastern Gut Bar was the governing factor for 6 days, compared with 10 days in the previous year and the average available depth was 18 feet 5 inches as against 17 feet 7 inches of the previous year. More dredging had to be done in Ninan Reach than during the preceding year and it was the governing

bar for 7 days. The figures for the year under report show that the new lighted channel between Uluberia and Garden Reach and the Uluberia anchorage have proved to be real assets to the Port. Two hundred and fifty-seven vessels or over 22 per cent. of the vessels leaving the port used the lighted channel. Of these 152 anchored at Uluberia, 24 at Budge-Budge and 81 proceeded without anchoring.

Trade.

543. One thousand one hundred and sixty-four vessels with a total net tonnage of 3,870,343 tons arrived at the Port compared with 1,174 vessels with a net tonnage of 3,828,983 tons during the previous year. One hundred and fifty-four vessels entered the King George's Dock as against 124 during 1932-33. The aggregate net tonnage of sea-borne traffic at the Port was 7,580,497 tons compared with 7,512,196 tons during the preceding year.

Financial position.

544. The income for the year amounted to Rs. 2,88,29,623 as against Rs. 2,46,36,680 obtained during the previous year. Of this increase Rs. 23½ lakhs were due to the increase in charges. The expenditure during the year amounted to Rs. 2,97,41,776 as compared with an actual expenditure of Rs. 2,53,65,300 during 1933-34. The increase in expenditure over the previous year was almost entirely due to an extra net payment of over Rs. 37½ lakhs on account of interest and sinking fund charges owing to a smaller excess being withdrawn from the Sinking Fund at the end of the year. There was also a special debit of Rs. 2,59,283 on account of the Commissioners' decision to write down the value of their stock of bricks to current prices. The financial result of the year's working was much better than was expected by the Commissioners when the budget was framed and the position at the end of the year under review was definitely stronger than that anticipated. The Revenue Reserve Fund actually closed with a balance of Rs. 64,91,277 as against Rs. 52,63,692 in the preceding year. The deficit on the year's working was a little over 9 lakhs.

Howrah Bridge.

Revenue.

545. The income of the Howrah Bridge during the year under report amounted to Rs. 4,01,155 while the expenditure amounted to Rs. 4,56,457. Apart from the expenditure on ordinary maintenance and repairs, a sum of Rs. 1,40,319 was spent on special repair work, which the Commissioners decided had to be undertaken in order to keep the bridge in use during the period which must elapse before a new bridge can be constructed. The deficit of Rs. 55,282 was met from the general reserve fund.

Bridge opening.

546. During the year the bridge was opened on 282 occasions and 5,055 vessels passed through.

Inland Steam Vessels Act, 1917.

Surveys.

547. The number of vessels surveyed by the survey staff stationed at Calcutta was 405 steam and 71 motor vessels, and by the Ship Surveyor, Chittagong, 220 steam and 58 motor vessels.

Survey fees.

548. The survey fees realised amounted to Rs. 41,008 at Calcutta, and to Rs. 21,407 at Chittagong.

Examination.

549. For cetrificates of competency as engine drivers of inland steam and motor vessels including permits to take charge of inland motor vessels of 40 B.H.P. or less, 211 and 69 candidates were examined at Calcutta and Chittagong respectively: of those examined 39 passed at Calcutta and 29 at Chittagong. Out of 317 candidates examined for Inland Masters' and Serangs' certificates at Calcutta, 112 passed.

Courts of Enquiry.

550. During the year under review special Courts of Enquiry under section 33(*1*) (*a*) of the Inland Steam Vessels Act were constituted in 11 cases of casualties affecting inland steam or motor vessels, to investigate into the circumstances attending the accidents. In one case the Additional District Magistrate of Dacca held the enquiry under section 33(*1*) (*b*) of the Act. In seven of these twelve cases the certificates of competency of the Serangs were suspended for varying periods not exceeding one year. No certificate was cancelled. There was no prosecution under Chapter VII of the Act.

Rules under the Act.

551. The only amendment of general interest to Rules under the Inland Steam Vessels Act, made during the year was the issue of steering rules, which will come into force on 1st January 1935, introducing the direct system of helm orders.

Administration of the Indian Electricity Act, 1910.

552. During the year under report five new licences were granted under section 3(*1*) of the Indian Electricity Act, 1910, viz., (1) the Gouripore Electric Licence, 1933, (2) the Krishnagar Electric Licence, 1933, (3) the Jalpaiguri Electric Licence, 1933, (4) the Panihati, Khardah and Titagarh Electric Licence, 1933, (5) the Baidyabati, Champdany and Bhadreswar Electric Licence, 1933. The applications of previous years for (1) Rajshahi and (2) Bhatpara, Noapara, Garulia and North Barrackpore remained under consideration. A fresh application for the Barrackpore area was received. No licence was revoked during the year 1933. The work of reorganising the supply under the Darjeeling

Electric Licence, 1913, both at the generating stations and throughout certain sections of the distributing system continued during the year but more work remains to be done before the change-over can be completed. No progress was made by the licensee of the Patna Electric Licence, 1928. A further extension of time up to the 31st December 1933 for the completion of the works was granted by Government. The House of Labourers, the licensees of the Comilla Electric License, 1931, went into liquidation during the year under review. The supply of energy to the public under the Serajganj Electric Licence, 1931, was not satisfactory. The litigation between the licensee company and the Managing Agents was not concluded during the year under report. The Asansol Electric Licence, 1932, which was granted to Mr. A. K. Bajpai, was, during the year under report, transferred to the Asansol Electric Supply Company, Limited. The compulsory works under the licence were completed and supply to the public commenced during the year. Little progress was made by the licensee of the Khulna Electric Licence, 1932. The erection of the power station only was taken in hand. No further progress was made under the Bankura, Krishnagar and Midnapore Electric Licences, 1932, granted to Messrs. B. N. Elias and Company, Limited. Satisfactory progress was made during the year under the Naihati Electric Licence, 1932, granted to Mr. M. Sanyal. During the year under review this licence was transferred to the Naihati Electric Supply Company, Limited. No progress was made on site under the Jalpaiguri Electric Licence, 1933, or under the Barisal Electric Licence, 1933, granted to the Jalpaiguri Electric Supply Company, Limited, and Messrs. Roy and Company, Limited, respectively. Sanction to the supply of electrical energy under section 28(*1*) of the Indian Electrical Act, 1910, was granted to—

(1) The Agent, East Indian Railway, for the supply of energy to the Telephone Exchange and Post and Telegraph Office, Asansol; the sanction to remain in force until the licensees of the Asansol Electric Licence, 1932, are in a position to supply the required energy. (Sanction, dated the 10th March 1933.)

(2) Messrs. C. Bhadra and Company, Calcutta, for the supply of energy to a portion of the town of Kushtia for a period of five years with effect from the date of sanction. (Sanction, dated the 1st September 1933.)

(3) The River Steam Navigation Company, Limited, for the supply of energy to a variety show at Barisal for a period of three months with effect from the date of sanction. (Sanction, dated the 25th November 1933.)

The sanctions held by Messrs S. M. Ghatak of Tangail for the supply of energy to a portion of the town of Tangail and the Commander Royal Engineers, Presidency and Assam Districts, for the supply of energy to Messrs. B. N. Elias and Company, Limited, for distribution to the public in Midnapore, expired during the year and were renewed. There were 105 accidents during the year against 83 in 1932, of which 3 were fatal.

CHAPTER XIII.

Literature and the Press.

Books and Periodicals.

[Bengal Library and the Working of Act XXV of 1867.]

553. During the year 1933, 3,441 books and 1,230 issues of periodicals were registered. There was an increase of 205 books and a decrease of 21 periodicals from the year 1932. Of the books registered, 3,277 were original publications and 164 republications and translations. The educational books were 1,349 as against 1,174 in the previous year, and the non-educational books 2,092 as against 2,062. Twenty different languages were represented. Statistics.

554. No book worth mentioning was published during the year on Art. Under the heading of "Industry," the only important book was one on "Jute and its substitutes" by N. C. Choudhury. This also was not really a new publication, but an enlarged edition under a different name of a book produced in 1908. Under the heading "Biography" important lives of Raja Rammohan Roy (edited by Mr. Amal Home) and Keshab Chandra Sen (Sri Keshab Kahini by Babu Matilal Das) were issued. Other biographies include lives of Maharaja Manindra Chandra Nandi (of Cossimbazar), Sir Rajendra Nath Mookerjee, the well-known head of Martin and Company, and Sir Chandra Madhab Ghose, the distinguished Judge of the High Court. An objectionable life of Mr. J. M. Sen Gupta by an anonymous writer was proscribed by Government. Under "Drama," two short plays by Sir Rabindranath Tagore appeared, the first "Chandalika" was based on an old Nepali Buddhist story, and in the second "Taser Des," which may be rendered as "House of Cards" he held up to ridicule obscurantist ideas about social reform. Another similar production, designed to appeal to the popular taste, was "Mandir Proves" (Temple Entry) by one Jaladhar Chatterjee. Fiction flourished during the year under review, though its character was less varied than in the previous year. Sir Rabindranath Tagore wrote a delightful short story "Dui Bon" (The two sisters), dealing with the relations between husbands and wives. Babu Sarat Chandra Chatterjee, the most popular of present-day Bengali Subjects.

novelists, brought out a fourth volume of his charming but apparently never-to-be-finished story "Srikanta", which is based largely on his own life story. Dr. Naresh Sen Gupta wrote a novel "Parinam" (The End) attacking the craze for Government service as opposed to other forms of employment. His reputation seems to be on the wane. Among younger writers Achintya Kumar Sen Gupta and Buddhadeb Basu were most prominent. A book "Parinaye Pragati" (Progress in Marriage) achieved a succes-de-scandale: it purported to be an attack, from a conservative pen, on the present laxity in Bengali Hindu Society, about social customs in marriage, female education, and purdah. Several stories of healthy adventure suitable for children were published during the year, filling a long felt gap. In history several works of outstanding importance indicated that historical studies flourished. Sir Jadunath Sirkar published the first volume of a monumental treatise on the fall of the Mughal Empire, and also a volume of studies in Aurungzeb's reign. Mr. K. P. Jayaswal shed much welcome light on a dark period of Indian history in his "History of India" (150 A. D. to 350 A. D.). Three volumes of native chronicles on the History of Assam were published under the editorship of a Professor of Gauhati College. A valuable monograph on Ranjit Singh was published by the Calcutta University, the product of one of its Lecturers. In the field of Economics "Some Bengal Villages", an economic survey edited by two professors of the Scottish Church College and "The Problem of Agricultural Indebtedness," a contribution to the discussion of a very pressing topic by Mr. Nalini Ranjan Sarkar, deserve mention. In language Dr. Bimala Charan Law's History of Pali Literature" in two volumes is likely to become a standard work on its subject, while "The Linguistic speculations of the Hindus" by Dr. Probhat Chandra Chakravarti, Premchand Raychand student of the Calcutta University, is also a notable book. Dr. J. N. Das Gupta, Lecturer in Law of Dacca University, published a treatise on "Burden of Proof" which laid claim to being an attempt to think back to general principles on the subject. Under the head of "Poetry" the only books worthy of note were two volumes by Sir Rabindranath Tagore, one of these "Punascha" (Postscript) was a first experiment in what the poet was pleased to call "prose poetry." The other volume "Parisesh" (The End) contained a number of miscellaneous poems including a few sketches, more in the poet's former manner. Political publications were numerous. There were a number of publications extolling communist ideals and purporting to be accounts of mass movements in other countries, giving details of crude appeals to mob violence, which at least raise the question

of how far it is desirable for this type of inflammatory literature to be allowed to circulate among the Indian masses. A more sensible publication was "Volsheviki" a series of essays by a disciple of Aurobinda Ghosh, one Nalini Kanta Gupta, an able analysis of Bolshevism pointing out how the Bolsheviks had interfered with the natural course of social evolution and were trying to rebuild society by sheer physical force in a way wholly alien to the genius of Indian civilisation. There were also a certain number of publications on points arising out of the White Paper proposals, mainly criticising the Communal Award.

Religion.

555. Sir John Woodroffe, late Judge of the Calcutta High Court, produced another in the long line of his scholarly editions of various "Tantras". During the year he published in two large volumes the text of the "Sharadatilaka Tantram". Professor Bidhu Sekhar Shastri of the Viswabharati of Bolpur continued his edition of the Tibetan version of long lost Buddhistic works in Sanskrit, with reconstructed original texts. The work published during the year was the "Chatuh Salaka" of Aryadeb. Sir Rabindranath Tagore published three lecturers in Bengali delivered in the Calcutta University on Manusher Dharma (The Religion of Man). The lecturer relied more on poetic intuition than close philosophical reasoning in establishing his views on the nature of the individual and universal souls and the relation between the two.

556. Among books on miscellaneous topics may be mentioned a History of Elementary Education in India by Mr. J. M. Sen, an Inspector in the Education Department; a book of reminiscences by the late Aparesh Mukherjee, the well-known dramatist and actor; a History of the Bengali stage dealing with its beginnings, by Babu Brajendra Nath Banerjee; and "Topics of the Past from Newspapers" by the same author, giving interesting details of the social life of Calcutta a hundred years ago, collected from contemporary newspapers; these two books were in Bengali. Mention may also be made of "Biyer Bhul" (Marriage Mistakes), a collection of essays on marriage and sexual morals, advocating the views of Havelock Ellis and Marie Stopes; and "Paraloker Kotha" (Topics of the Next World), a book on Spiritualism by Mrinal Kanti Ghosh.

557. In general, both in English and Bengali, there was a slight expansion in book production during the year 1933. Gradually the Bengali publishing trade is relying less on school and college text-book publication, and finding a larger field in publishing novels and books dealing with current events and problems.

and to a lesser extent works of literature and scholarship. It still remains true that the field of scholarship is dominated by works written in the English language, whether imported or published locally, and there seems little sign of any change in this; but there is no decline of vigour in Bengali literary productions but rather a tendency to develop along new lines, not so much under the influence of the genius of Sir Rabindranath Tagore. An interesting sign is the growth of historical curiosity in the fields of early Bengali literature and newspapers.

Administration of the Cinematograph Act.

558. During the year under review 1,144 films representing 3,391,475 feet, were certified by the Bengal Board of Censors, of which 149 representing 1,141,173 feet were Indian, 451 representing 769,898 feet were British, 532 representing 1,448,578 feet were American and 12 representing 31,826 feet were of other countries. Of the total number approximately 13 per cent. was Indian, 39·5 per cent. British, 46·5 per cent. American and only 1 per cent. of other countries. Only 83 silent films were certified this year by the Board, and it is no exaggeration to say that "talkies" have practically ousted the silent films. Certificates were refused to 3 films and excisions were made in 20 films before they were certified for public exhibition. The majority of silent cinema houses in Calcutta have been converted into "talkies."

The Board suspended, under section 7(*4*) of the Cinematograph Act, the Bombay Board certificates for the following films, and the Local Government, by notification in the "Calcutta Gazette," declared them to be uncertified films in the whole of the Bengal Presidency :—

(1) *A Night in Cairo (syn.)—Metro-Goldwyn Mayer Corporation, length 6,048 feet.*—The film tends to hurt the feelings of the occidental and the oriental.

(2) *Private Life of Henry VIII (syn.)—United Artists Corporation, length 8,738 feet.*—The film militates against the traditional reverence of the Indians for the reigning house in England.

There was no prosecution for any breach of the rules under the Act during the period under review.

Popularity among Indian audiences of indigenous talkies dealing with Indian themes continues to increase. There is unfortunately still a paucity in the supply of really efficient Indian

cinema actors and actresses. Female artistes, with solitary exceptions, continue to be recruited from the lower and undesirable strata of society, as the bias against this particular profession is deep-rooted and will take long to die out, notwithstanding the praiseworthy lead given by some Indian ladies. The art and technique of Indian films is steadily on the upgrade, and some of the latest productions have reached a high standard.

The Board have recorded their opinion that film posters and advertisement matter cannot be dealt with thoroughly and effectively until their hands are strengthened by definite and specific powers under the Act. In the meantime, importers and exhibitors have been asked to submit, before public exhibition, all posters and advertisement matter for scrutiny, and the informal censoring of posters and advertisement matter is, in this way, carried on by mutual agreement.

In regard to "the convention" "for facilitating the international circulation of films of an educational character," received from the League of Nations, and the exemption of such films from customs duty, the Board have agreed to being entrusted with the functions of the "National Authority" to decide the educational character of such films and are co-operating with the international Educational Cinematograph Institute in the mattter.

Broadcasting.

559. The Indian State Broadcasting Service maintain a Station at Calcutta, with offices, Studios and Control Room at 1, Garstin Place, Calcutta, and the transmitting Station at Cossipore, which has both a long wave and a short wave plant. In the year 1933-34 the revenue of the service, mainly derived from licences and customs duties on imported radio goods, showed a profit over total expenditure for the first time, and now that it is financially on firm ground, the Government of India have under consideration several schemes of expansion. The programmes transmitted by the Calcutta Station are divided into Indian and European, the former occupying a larger proportion of the whole. Broadcasts of educative "talks" by prominent speakers, and rural uplift, are special features of the Station's programme. Advantage was taken of the service towards the close of the year to broadcast a talk on the Government's Jute Restriction programme.

Newspapers and Periodicals.

[Annual report on Indian papers printed or published in the Bengal Presidency, 1933.]

I.—Statistical Particulars.

Number of newspapers and periodicals.

560. The total number of newspapers and priodicals, English and vernacular, printed or published in the Presidency during the year under review, was 767 against 762 of the previous year. With the exception of 11, the nature of the edition of which was unknown, this number included 297 newspapers and 459 periodicals, the corresponding figures for the preceding year being 292 newspapers and 449 periodicals, respectively. They represented 38 daily, 220 weekly, 3 bi-weekly, 1 tri-weekly, 35 fortnightly, 330 monthly, 12 bi-monthly, 70 quarterly and 16 annual publications, besides, 3 issued five times a year, 10 issued thrice a year, and 18 issued twice a year. One hundred and ninety-one newspapers and periodicals were started, and 163 ceased to exist during the year under review.

Language.

561. Dividing these publications according to language, 194 or 25·2 per cent. were in English, 379 or 49·4 per cent. in Bengali, 43 or 5·6 per cent. in Hindi, 25 or 3·2 per cent in Urdu, those in Nepalese, Assamese, Oriya, Tibetan, Chinese, Gujrati and Punjabi, and those which were bi-lingual or in more than two languages supplied the balance.

Distribution.

562. Of the total number of newspapers and periodicals mentioned above, 498 were published in the town of Calcutta, 51 in the Presidency, 47 in the Burdwan, 49 in the Rajshahi, 92 in the Dacca and 21 in the Chittagong Divisions, respectively; besides 1 in the Malay States, 2 in Tripura State, 1 in Cooch Behar, 4 in French Chandernagore and 1 in the United Provinces.

Nationality of editors.

563. Information about caste or nationality of the editors is not available in many cases. But the broad division into Hindu, Moslem and Christian may be taken as clear, and on this division there were 622 Hindu (including Brahmo), 68 Moslem and 72 Christian publications.

Proscriptions and prosecutions.

564. During the year under report prosecutions under sections 124-A and 153-A, Indian Penal Code, were *nil* against 9 in the previous year. Seventy-five warnings were issued as against 56 in the preceding year. Action was taken under the Indian Press (Emergency Powers) Act by demand of security from 28 newspapers and presses. In 7 cases security was forfeited. There were

12 cases of proscription of books under section 99-A of the Criminal Procedure Code and section 19 of the Indian Press (Emergency Powers) Act, 1931.

General tone of the press.

565. There were signs of a welcome change in the general tone of the press during the year. Though the extremist papers remained dominant in influence, their extremism was more subdued and guarded in expression. Condemnation of terrorism by the nationalist press was more open than before. Signs of a change for the better had first been visible in the previous year, due, no doubt, largely to a vigorous application of the Press Act. In the year under reference, there was more genuine recognition of the evils of terrorism, though criticism of measures taken by Government to deal with terrorism continued unabated.

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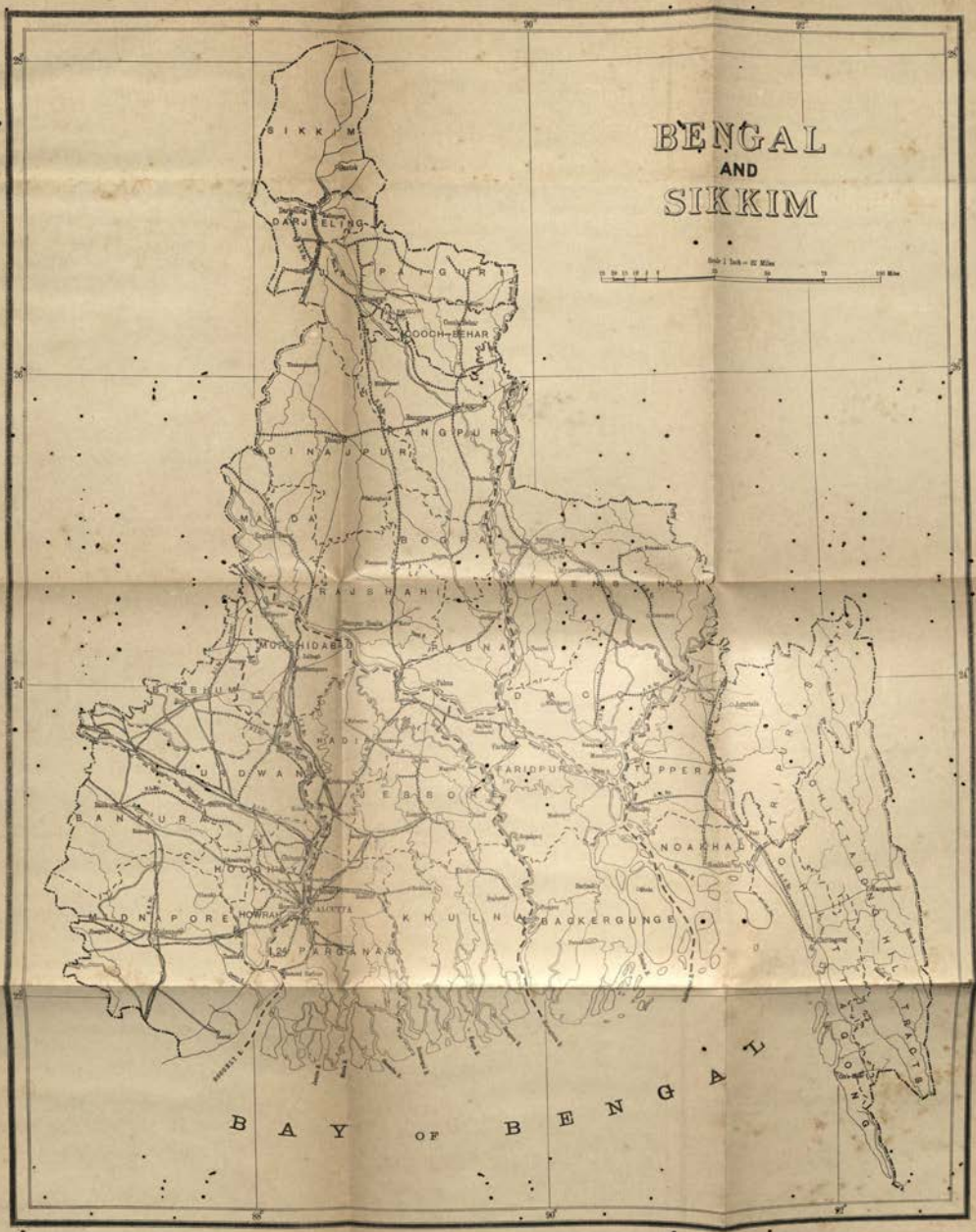

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